



Country Profiles - 2015

**Bolivia, Cameroon, China,
Colombia, Indonesia, Lao PDR,
Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama
Peru, Russian Far East, Vietnam**

The Global Forest & Trade Network is a WWF initiative to combat illegal logging and drive improvements in forest management while transforming the global marketplace into a force for saving the world's valuable and threatened forests. By strengthening the links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve forests while providing economic and social benefits to the businesses and people that depend on them. First established in 1991 by WWF, GFTN is the world's longest-running and largest forest and trade program of its kind, providing structured support for a wide range of players involved in forest products markets. WWF, through GFTN's global-to-local approach and on-the-ground presence, provides a framework that combines market stimulation and application of field-based technical assistance in over 25 countries.

More information about GFTN is available at gftn.panda.org.

Cover image: Kerinci Seblat National Park in the tropical rainforest Sumatra, Indonesia, © Mauri Rautkari / WWF - Cannon



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Bolivia's Amazon and montane forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, but illegal and unsustainable logging pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Bolivia.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Guarayos and El Chorré municipalities in Santa Cruz Province
- Ixiamas in La Paz Province
- Chiquitania in Velasco Municipality

High-risk species

- Ochoó (domestic) (*Hura crepitans*)
- Tajibo (*Tabebuia* spp.)
- Roble (*Amburana cearensis*)
- Morado (*Machaerium scleroxylon*)
- Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) CITES Appendix III
- Tarara (*Centrolobium microchaete*)
- Almendrillo (*Dipteryx odorata*)
- Paquió (*Hymenaea courbaril*)
- Hoja de Yuca/Kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*)

Primary forest product exports

- Sawn wood
- Doors
- Furniture

Note: It is illegal to export logs from Bolivia.

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging by unlicensed companies
- Illegal logging-related corruption
- Logging outside of licensed areas and in prohibited areas, including illegal logging in protected areas within licensed areas
- Forged forest management documents (Plan Operativo Anual Forestal – POAF and Informe Anual de los Planes Operativos Anuales Forestales – IAPOAF)

Other common illegalities

- Forged/falsified documents (e.g., management plans that don't reflect the reality of the area under management, wood sawn in different areas than what is stated in wood transport permits, harvest authorizations in 'ghost areas')
- Legalization of unlawful activities (e.g., illegal clearings are penalized with fines but products are sold afterwards)
- Corrupt actions by local forest agents
- Corrupt actions by public officials

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- Wood on the black market is "legalized" (meaning made to appear legal) with false transport permits for logs prior to transformation
- Wood is legalized in sawmills by falsifying the percentage of a tree that is first quality and then inflating the second-level quality



FOREST FACTS

Bolivia has 53 million hectares (130,965,852 acres) of forest, of which 28.8 million ha (71,166,350 acres) are considered permanent productive forests, distributed throughout seven productive regions.



Bolivia had a timber product export of over US\$60 million in 2013. The US was the largest importer, followed by China and Chile.

Bolivia has 830,500 ha (2,052,210 acres) of FSC-certified forest (2014).

For more information about GFTN-Bolivia: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/latin_america/bolivia/index.cfm

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Tapir with young

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- Sawmilling and transformation factors are overestimated to allow legalization of wood coming from the sawmill

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- Autoridad de Fiscalización y Control Social de Bosque y Tierra – ABT (Supervision and Social Control Authority for Forests and Land)
- Unidades Forestales Municipales – UFM (Forestry Units in some Municipalities)

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Cámara de Exportadores de Bolivia – CANEB (Bolivian Chamber of Exporters)
- Cámara de Exportadores de Santa Cruz – CADEX (Santa Cruz Chamber of Exporters)
- Servicio Nacional de Verificación de Exportadores – RUEX (National Service of Exporters Verification), where RUEX (the only registry of exporters) can be obtained

Corruption Perceptions Index

35 (103rd out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Much of the illegal activity in the forest sector of Bolivia takes place at the forest level. Because there are only a few forest rangers responsible for monitoring large forest areas, enforcement of forest laws and harvest plans is challenging. Historically, companies have been able to self-declare wood volumes per log in the forest, allowing overestimates of height and diameter to lead to inflated wood volumes.

This type of intentional error has allowed bad actors to gain access to more transport permits than are warranted based on harvest plans and legal log volumes. Recently, the Authority for Fiscalization and Social Control of Forests and Land (ABT) has begun an electronic system for transport permits that mandates a field inspection of the forest management area and log yard. This is believed to be producing positive results in controlling illegal logging.

Currently no reliable estimates for illegal trade in forest products in Bolivia are available. Previous estimates have suggested that over 50% of timber traded was illegal or suspicious in some way.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Bolivia

- Require suppliers to provide documentary evidence of legal

procurement, which may include

- compliance with Forestry Law 1700
- certificates to demonstrate forest of origin (CFOs)
- CEFO Forest Certification of Origin (CFO 4 for exports)
- CITES permits

- Demand a credible, third-party-verified forest management and chain of custody certificate
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities.

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Jaguar

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Cameroon's Congolian rain forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, but illegal and unsustainable logging pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Cameroon.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Eastern region of Cameroon

Note: Most illegal logging occurs in non-permanent forest areas, which are outside of allocated forest concessions.

Top five high-risk species

- Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*)
- Iroko (*Chlorophora* spp.)
- Sapeli mahogany (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) IUCN-listed
- Bilinga (*Nauclea* spp.) IUCN-listed
- Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) IUCN-listed

Note: A ban on log exports was introduced in 1999 for all species except *Triplochiton scleroxylon*.

Primary forest product exports

- Sawn timber
- Roundwood
- Plywood

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Artisanal (small-scale) logging
- Logging-related corruption (petty or political)
- Logging outside of licensed areas and in prohibited areas, including illegal logging in protected areas within licensed areas
- Illegal contractual logging in communal forests
- Forged annual cutting licenses (outside system of concessions)
- Use of community forest documents to transport illegal wood

Other common illegalities

- Forged/falsified documents
- Unpaid or underpaid taxes
- Corruption (petty or political)

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

FOREST LEVEL

- Documents are forged to misrepresent the origin of the wood

CUSTOMS LEVEL

- Wood that has not been properly taxed is exported

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife)

CUSTOMS LEVEL

- Customs authority controls all exports



FOREST FACTS

Cameroon has 14,561,000 hectares (35,981,014 acres) of production forests, of which 7,900,000 ha are allocated to industrial logging and 942,462 hectares are FSC-certified (2015).

Cameroon had timber product exports of US\$701.5 million in 2013. China is the largest export destination, accounting for over 31% of wood exports from Cameroon. Over 43% of Cameroon's wood exports go to seven EU countries. The US and Turkey are also export markets for Cameroon.

For more information about GFTN-Central Africa: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/africa/central_africa_

WWF CONTACTS

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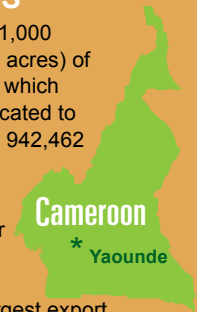
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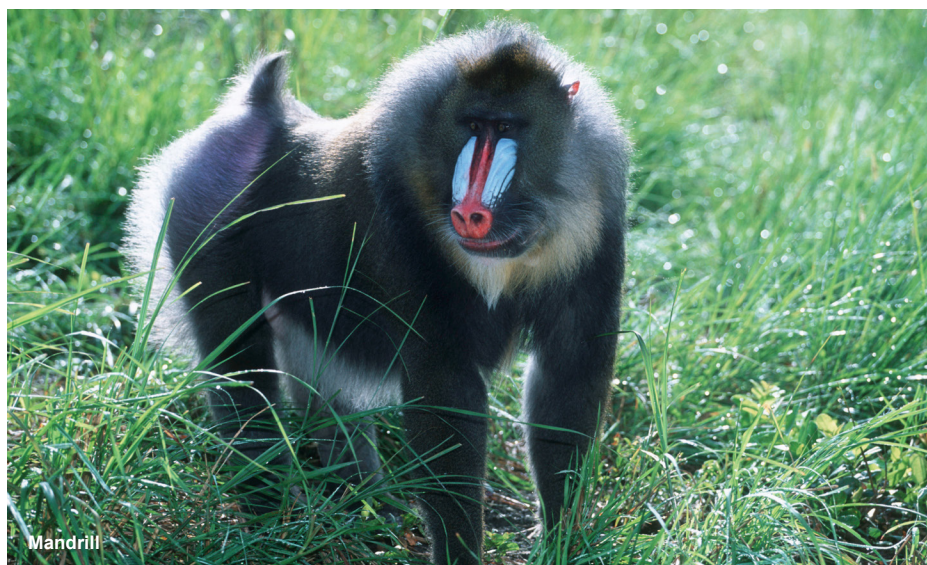
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Mandrill

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Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Cameroon

- Require suppliers to provide documentary evidence of legal procurement, which may include an Exportation Authorization Document (the certificate of origin: DF10, which is issued in the forest and must be presented to customs for export)
- Demand a credible third-party-verified forest management and chain of custody certificate
- Verify certified wood claims (forest management and legality) with relevant online databases
- Inquire if companies participate in initiatives for responsible forestry (e.g., GFTN or TFT)
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Western lowland gorilla

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Corruption Perceptions Index

27 (136th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Cameroon has two forest designations. The first type - permanent forest - is the property of the state and includes large forest management units, protected areas and conservation units. Large commercial logging companies operate in these areas, and there are high levels of government control on the forest resources. The second type of forest is non-permanent forest that is similar to agro-forestry areas. These forests are home to small communities and have been heavily logged. The species in both types of forests are the same, but the quantity and density of trees in the latter is lower.

The Cameroonian government gives out two types of forest management concessions:

Forest Management Units (FMUs):

FMUs have a rotation of 30 years and an obligation to develop and implement a management plan for the prescribed period.

Sales of standing volumes (SSVs):

SSVs are given out for the time period of one year and the legal obligations/restrictions are less than those for FMUs. Often this type of management goes along with illegal activities (over-logging, disregard of minimum diameters, etc.).

Most of the illegal timber harvesting in Cameroon is perpetrated by small companies or by individuals who have their own harvesting equipment. They cut wood illegally and then pay off officials at forest checkpoints to legalize it. The wood may be illegal because there is no documentation, because they have exceeded their permitted volume, or because they have harvested outside of the permitted area. Often the wood is legalized through falsified documents that are obtained via bribes.

Much of the timber harvested under these circumstances is destined for domestic use, but some does cross into international trade. The UK-based Chatham House's 2010 report, "Illegal Logging and Related Trade," states that there is believed to be limited illegal logging in the large concessions, although certain types of illegal activity are not ruled out (e.g., cutting of undersized trees). The report confirms that the domestic market for illegal timber is the major problem and estimates that between 22% and 47% of all timber harvested in 2010 was illegal in some way.



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As the world's largest importer of industrial roundwood, second largest importer of sawnwood and wood pulp (outranked only by the US), and the largest exporter of finished wood products, China has a substantial ecological footprint across the world's forests both as a producer and a consumer. China imports half of its timber products from countries like Russia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Burma and Cameroon, among others, where illegal logging and other serious environmental and social issues are prevalent. In recent years, alarmed by the severe ecological impacts of deforestation, the Chinese Government took strong measures to halt the clear-cutting of Chinese forests and promote tree planting. However, there is currently no law to curb imports of illegally harvested wood into China. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in China.

Primary forest product exports

- Furniture
- Plywood
- Flooring
- Paper products

Common types of illegalities

- Importation of illegally harvested timber, including timber stolen from protected areas
- Importation of endangered and vulnerable species
- Importation of roundwood from countries that mandate domestic processing prior to export
- Importation of timber through unauthorized agencies
- Importation of timber from conflict areas where government has little control

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

National Level:

- State Forestry Administration (国家林业局)
- Ministry of Commerce (商务部)
- Ministry of Environmental Protection (环境保护部)

Regional Level:

- Customs

Additional comments on timber

China currently has no prohibition on imports of illegal timber. As a result, Chinese customs allows timber companies and traders to import wood products as long they pay taxes and import duties, without requiring that they check compliance with laws in the country of origin. In recent years, pressure from China's main export markets has forced some Chinese manufacturers to avoid sourcing wood from countries with a high risk of illegal logging. However, the vast majority of Chinese log imports continues to be sourced from countries where forest governance is weak.



FOREST FACTS

China has 195 million hectares of forest land, accounting for 20% of the nation's land area. Over 60% of these forests are natural forests.



In 2013, China exported over US\$12.7 billion in timber products and US\$16 billion in pulp and paper products. The US and Japan were the largest export markets.

China imported over US\$9.3 billion in roundwood in 2013, with the three leading suppliers—New Zealand, Russia and the US—accounting for nearly 47% of the total.

China's 2013 imports of wood pulp exceeded US\$17.3 billion. The leading supplier was the US, followed by Canada, Brazil, Indonesia and Chile.

China has 2,997,706 hectares (7,407,493 acres) of FSC-certified forest and 3,715 chain of custody certificates (Nov. 2014).

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Orangutans

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Wanglang Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province, China

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High risk species imported into China from other countries

Country of origin	High risk species	
Brazil	Araucária (<i>Araucaria angustifolia</i>) Native brazilwood/pernambuco (<i>Caesalpinia echinata</i>) Jacarandá/Brazilian rosewood (<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>) Maçaranduba (<i>Manilkara huberi</i>) Jatobá (<i>Hymenaea courbaril</i>) and <i>Hymenaea parvifolia</i> Ipê-roxo (<i>Tabebuia impetiginosa</i>)	IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Cameroon	Ayous (<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>) Iroko (<i>Chlorophora</i> spp.) Sapele (<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>) Bilinga (<i>Nauclea</i> spp.) Bubinga (<i>Guibourtia</i> spp.)	IUCN-listed IUCN-listed
Democratic Republic of Congo	Wengé (<i>Millettia laurentii</i>) Sapele (<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>) Afromosia (<i>Pericopsis elata</i>)	IUCN-listed IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Gabon	Okoume (<i>Aucoumea klaineana</i>) Kevazingo/bubinga (<i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i>) Moabi (<i>Baillonella toxisperma</i>)	IUCN-listed
Indonesia	Kapur (<i>Dryobalanops aromatica</i>) Meranti, balau, bangkirai, lauan (<i>Shorea</i> spp.) Marsolok (<i>Shorea platyclados</i>) Ulin or Borneo ironwood (<i>Eusideroxylon zwageri</i>) Keruing or Asian mahogany (<i>Dipterocarpus</i> spp.) Merbau (<i>Intsia bijuga</i>) Ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.)	IUCN-listed IUCN-listed IUCN-listed IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Malaysia	Kapur (<i>Dryobalanops aromatica</i>) Meranti, balau, bangkirai, lauan (<i>Shorea</i> spp.) Marsolok (<i>Shorea platyclados</i>) Ulin or Borneo ironwood (<i>Eusideroxylon zwageri</i>) Keruing or Asian mahogany (<i>Dipterocarpus</i> spp.) Merbau (<i>Intsia bijuga</i>) Ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.)	IUCN-listed IUCN-listed IUCN-listed IUCN-listed IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Myanmar (Burma)	Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>) Rosewood (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) Himalayan yew (<i>Taxus wallichiana</i>)	IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Papua New Guinea	Taun (<i>Pometia pinnata</i>) Merbau (<i>Intsia bijuga</i>) Bintangor (<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>)	
Peru	Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) Spanish cedar (<i>Cedrela odorata</i>) Cumarú (<i>Dipteryx micrantha</i>) Lupula (<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>) Estoraque (<i>Myroxylon balsamum</i>)	CITES & IUCN-listed CITES & IUCN-listed
Russian Far East	Mongolian oak (<i>Quercus mongolicus</i>) Manchurian ash (<i>Fraxinus mandshurica</i>) Korean pine (<i>Pinus koraiensis</i>) Amur linden (<i>Tilia amurensis</i>) Manchurian linden (<i>T. mandshurica</i>) Japanese elm (<i>Ulmus japonica</i>)	CITES-listed CITES-listed CITES-listed
Solomon Islands	Taun (<i>Pometia pinnata</i>) Merbau (<i>Intsia bijuga</i>) Bintangor (<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>)	IUCN-listed

Additional comments on paper

In addition to timber products, pulpwood and pulp and paper imported from certain countries may also be high risk. For example, although illegal logging in Indonesia has declined significantly in recent years, there is a high likelihood that pulp and paper products imported from Indonesia—either directly or indirectly through Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore—have come from forests that have been unsustainably managed, which poses significant reputational risk.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from China

- Require suppliers to provide documentary evidence of legal procurement and traceability
- Demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management or controlled wood and chain of custody certificates
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities
- Contact GFTN

Other resources:

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

GFTN-China
gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/china_ftn

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org



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Colombia's Amazon and coastal forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, but illegal and unsustainable logging pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Colombia.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Amazon region (between Peru and Brazil)
- Choco Darien region (the Pacific coast between Ecuador and Panama)

High-risk species

AMAZON REGION

- Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) CITES Appendix III

CHOCO REGION

- Cativo (*Prioria copaifera*)
- Abarco (*Cariniana pyriformis*)

Primary forest product exports

- Pulp and paper (mostly *Pinus patula* and *Eucalyptus globulus*)
- Furniture, doors, door and window frames
- Wood from natural forests and plantations (20% of Colombia's timber harvest is exported)

Note: Colombia has maintained an export ban on roundwood from natural forests since 1997.

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Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Illegal logging-related corruption
- Logging by permissionaries (e.g., permits granted for legitimate volumes of timber, but used for different harvests than were permitted)

Other common illegalities

- Forged/falsified documents
- Corrupt actions by local forest agents
- Illegal sawmilling and smuggling

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- Wood is legalized before leaving the forest by obtaining harvest permits for specific volume and then harvesting a different species/area
- Sawn timber placed on the black market is legalized with false documentation and then sold as legal in major cities

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

NATIONAL LEVEL

- Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development)

REGIONAL LEVEL

- Corporaciones Autónomas Regionales (Regional Autonomous Authorities)



FOREST FACTS

Colombia's 60,728,000 hectares (150,062,156 acres) of natural forest cover 50% of the country.

Colombia's wood product exports totaled nearly US\$43 million in 2013. India was the largest export market with 31%, followed by Panama, China and Venezuela, but regional markets also account for a significant share of exports.

Colombia has 132,249 hectares (326,794 acres) of FSC-certified forest (Nov. 2014).

For more information about GFTN in Colombia: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/latin_america/gftn_nacd

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GFTN-Northern Amazon-Choco Darien

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Cotton top tamarin

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Corruption Perceptions Index

37 (94th out of 174 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Much of the illegal activity in the forest sector of Colombia is believed to be related to corruption in the government agencies managing the harvest permit system. In addition, in large management areas such as the Amazon region, there are too few resources for enforcement of management plans and legal application of harvest permits.

In 2010, 24 groups (government agencies, private companies and NGOs, including WWF) signed the Pact for Legal Timber in Colombia. The agreement was endorsed by groups with unique expertise in addressing challenges at different points in the timber supply chain. The intention of the ongoing project

is to promote traceability in timber supply chains and support companies in establishing chain of custody for their products.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Colombia

- Require suppliers to provide documentary evidence of legal procurement, which may include
 - management plan
 - harvest permission document (Plan de Aprovechamiento)
 - Salvocunducto (this is the trade report, i.e., how much timber has been authorized; this should be consistent with the harvest document)
- Demand a credible, third-party-verified forest management and chain of custody certificate
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities
- Follow the progress of defining legal

timber in Colombia, led by the Ministry of Environment

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

WWF-Colombia Choose Legal Timber
elijamaderalegal.blogspot.com

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

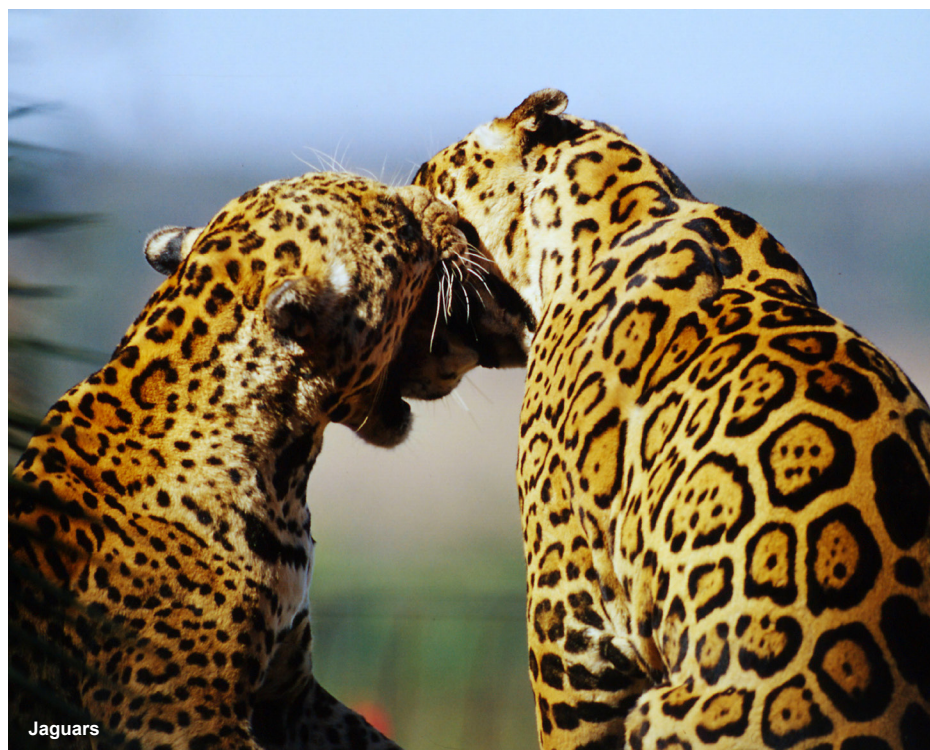
APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Jaguars

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Indonesia's rain forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth—including Sumatran tigers, orangutans and pygmy elephants—but illegal and unsustainable logging pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Indonesia.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- East, Central and West Kalimantan Provinces
- Riau Province
- Jambi Province
- Papua and West Papua Provinces

High-risk species

- Kapur (*Dryobalanops aromatica*)
- Meranti, balau, bangkirai, lauan (*Shorea* spp.) IUCN lists nearly all *Shorea* species as endangered or critically endangered
- Marsolok (*Shorea platyclados*)
- Ulin or Borneo ironwood (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*)
- Keruing or Asian mahogany (*Dipterocarpus* spp.) IUCN lists the majority of *Dipterocarpus* species as endangered or critically endangered
- Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) CITES Appendix II

Primary forest product exports

- Sawn timber
- Pulp
- Boards

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging by concessionaires
- Logging by unlicensed companies
- Artisanal (small-scale) logging
- Logging of protected species
- Logging outside of licensed areas or in prohibited areas, including illegal logging in protected areas or zones within licensed areas where logging is prohibited (e.g., in riparian areas)
- Misclassification of species that are being harvested in order to reduce tax payments or because harvest of the species is prohibited
- Forged/falsified documents (e.g., management plans that don't reflect the reality of the area under management, wood sawn in different areas than what is declared in wood transport permits, harvest authorizations from "ghost areas")

Other common illegalities

- Illegal sawmilling and smuggling
- Corrupt actions by public officials

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- When illegal timber is confiscated by authorities, it goes to auction and becomes legal



FOREST FACTS

Indonesia has 94,432,000 hectares (233,346,554 acres) of forest, covering 52% of the country.

Logging is permitted on 55% (48 million ha or 118 million acres) of the country's remaining forests.

Indonesia exported US\$3.6 billion of wood products and US\$5.6 billion of pulp and paper products in 2013. Japan, China and the US are the largest importers of Indonesian forest products.

Indonesia has 1,999,959 hectares (4,942,006 acres) of FSC-certified forest (Feb. 2015).

For more about GFTN-Indonesia: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/indonesia_ftn/

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This document is for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended and should not be construed as legal advice. Persons seeking legal advice on compliance with the Lacey Act or any other law should consult with a qualified legal professional.



Orangutan with young

© ANUP SHAH / WWF-CANON

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- Kementerian Kehutanan Republik Indonesia (Ministry of Forestry)
- Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia (Police)

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Customs officials
- Kementerian Perdagangan Republik Indonesia (Department of Trade)

Corruption Perceptions Index

34 (107th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

There are no current statistics on illegal logging in Indonesia, though it is apparent that illegal logging and timber trade in the country has declined significantly over the last five years. Confirmation of legality is currently provided through Indonesia's timber legality assurance system (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu or SVLK).

However, companies sourcing from Indonesia should be aware that much of

the legal timber circulating in the market comes from natural forests that have been harvested unsustainably, which poses considerable reputational risk.

Tracking timber to its origins through traders and intermediaries is difficult in Indonesia, as mandatory documentation of timber transport is cumbersome and does not cover all situations. This documentation can be unreliable unless verified by a third party.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Indonesia

- Require suppliers to provide documentary evidence of legal procurement, which may include
 - validity certificates for logs (SKSKB or Surat Keterangan Sahnya Kayu Bulat)
 - processed timber transportation invoices (FA-KO or Faktur Angkutan Kayu Olahan)
 - log transportation invoices (FA-KB)
 - Indonesian timber legality verification system SVLK
 - CITES permits
- Demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management and chain of

custody certificates

- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Avoid sourcing from Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and APRIL
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local environmental NGOs and forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Sumatran forest elephant

© NICK GARBUTT / WWF-CANON



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Covering 40% of Lao PDR's land area, forests directly support the livelihoods of two-thirds of the Lao population, and the forestry sector accounts for a significant share of the country's economy. As its economy grows and demand for land and timber intensifies, Lao PDR's valuable forest resources are rapidly succumbing to unsustainable and illegal logging. Forest loss in Lao PDR threatens not only many endangered wildlife species, but also the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Lao PDR.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activities

Although illegal logging is a country-wide problem, it is concentrated in protected areas in the central and southern regions where the remaining populations of high-value timber species such as rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.) are located.

High-risk species

- Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.)
- Burma padauk (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*)
- Afzelia (*Afzelia xylocarpa*)
- Pyinkado (*Xylocarpus xylocarpa*)
- Keruing (*Dipterocarpus* spp.)
- Yellow balau (*Shorea* spp.)
- Merawan (*Hopea* spp.)
- Merbau (*Intsia* spp.)

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- Mersawa (*Anisoptera* spp.)
- Hinoki cypress (*Chamaecyparis* spp.)

Primary forest product exports

- Industrial roundwood
- Sawnwood
- Wood charcoal

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging outside of licensed areas and in protected areas
- Logging of protected species or over-harvesting
- Artisanal (small-scale) logging

Other common illegalities

- Irregularities in the award of log quotas to private companies
- Abuse of power by public officials
- Operation of sawmills and processing facilities without authorization

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

FOREST LEVEL

- Bribing public officials to secure log quotas or obtain other approvals
- Overstatement of volumes in forest inventories
- Legal purchasing of confiscated illegal timber
- Misrepresentation of species or volumes of usable timber
- Incorrectly classifying fallow land and village forestland as degraded or barren

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Bribing public officials to obtain export permits
- False customs declarations



FOREST FACTS

According to a 2010 Lao government assessment, Lao PDR has 9.5 million hectares of forests (40.3% of land area), all of which belong to the state.

In 2013, Lao PDR exported nearly US\$518 million in wood products. China was the biggest export market with 84%, followed by Thailand and Japan with an additional 14%.

Note: The Lao government banned the export of all unfinished wood products in 2007, but numerous government-issued exemptions allow the continued export of unprocessed and semi-processed wood.

Lao PDR has 154,605 hectares (382,037 acres) of FSC-certified forest and one chain of custody certificate (Nov. 2014).

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General Inquiry: gftn@wwf.panda.org



Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality:

- *Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)* - Responsible for the protection, management and development of production forests.
- *Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)* - Oversees the sale, transport, processing and export of logs, processed timber and finished wood products.
- *Department of Forestry (DoF)* - Under MAF, responsible for managing Lao PDR's production forest estate, oversees forest production, designates areas for restoration and commercial plantations, and contributes to the monitoring of forest cover. Lead agency for FSC certification.
- *Department of Forest Inspection (DoFI)* - Lead agency under MAF for forest and wildlife law enforcement, investigation and prosecution.
- *Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO)/District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO)/Provincial Office of Forest Inspection (PoFI)* - The local offices of central agriculture and forestry agencies, charged with managing, monitoring and controlling production forestry activities at provincial, district and village levels.



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Corruption Perceptions Index

25 (145th out of 175 countries)
The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index—a combination of polls—drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional Comments

Under Lao PDR's 2007 Forestry Law (currently under revision), timber harvesting is permitted in three circumstances: 1) inside demarcated production forest areas in line with approved sustainable management plans; 2) plantations; and 3) forest areas allocated for construction of infrastructure or clearance for agriculture. The Law also stipulates that plantations can only be established on degraded or barren forest lands. In practice, however, weak governance and the lack of a clear definition of degraded or barren land has led to widespread unsustainable logging and forest conversion—both legal and illegal—throughout the country.

Since 2007, Lao PDR has banned the export of all unfinished and semi-finished wood products, although official exemptions to the ban are common. The country's wood processing industry is still at an early stage of development, with limited incentives for expansion due to an opaque and unpredictable log quota allocation system and high demand for raw materials from neighboring countries. Together, these factors continue to drive a thriving cross-border trade in logs, much of it illegal, with Vietnam, China and, to a lesser extent, Thailand and Cambodia.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest product from Laos

Importers should ask their suppliers to provide the following documentation:

- Evidence of legal procurement, which may include logging licenses and contracts



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- Log lists and log sales contracts
- Log sales receipts and tax receipts
- Log removal and transport permits
- Log delivery lists maintained by sawmills/processing facilities
- Business and operating licenses of sawmills/processing facilities
- Export permits and tax receipts
- CITES permits (if the timber species is CITES-listed)

In addition, importers should:

- Demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management and chain of custody certificates
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Malaysia

Information to support responsible trade in forest products

The forests in Malaysia are mostly dominated by trees from the family of Dipterocarpaceae. Malaysia is home to some of the world's most endangered species, including the Malayan Tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*), Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and Asian and Borneo Pygmy Elephants (*Elephas maximus*). Illegal logging and forest conversion pose a significant threat to high conservation value habitats and species. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This factsheet is designed to assist wood product buyers in evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Malaysia.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Sarawak and Sabah, especially along the borders with Kalimantan
- Forest reserves in conflict with indigenous peoples' land claims

High-risk species

- Balau (*Shorea* spp.) IUCN lists nearly all *Shorea* species as Endangered or Critically Endangered
- Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) CITES Appendix II
- Chengal (*Neobalanocarpus heimii*)
- Karas/Gaharu (*Aquilaria* spp./*Gyrinop* spp.) CITES Appendix II
- Merbau (*Intsia palembanica*)

Primary forest product exports

- Furniture
- Plywood
- Sawntimber
- Logs

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging in protected areas
- Logging without adequate compensation to indigenous peoples for their customary forest rights
- Logging in conflict with indigenous peoples' customary rights
- Logging by licensed parties outside licensed areas or felling of prohibited tree species
- Logging by unlicensed parties

Other common illegalities

- Sawmills operating without government permits
- Sawmills hiring workers without proper permits (e.g., illegal immigrants)
- Sawmills renting facilities to illegal operators
- Falsified documents

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- When illegal timber is confiscated by authorities, it goes to auction and becomes legal



FOREST FACTS

Malaysia has 18,480,000 hectares (45,665,074 acres) of forest, covering about 56% of the country (FAO). *Note: These numbers do not include other tree crops, such as rubber, oil palm, cocoa and coconut.*



Commercial harvesting of timber on a predetermined rotational cycle is permitted on 53% (10,870,000 hectares) of the country's remaining forests (MTC).

Malaysia's total forest product exports reached nearly US\$4.4 billion of wood products and over US\$999 million of pulp and paper products in 2012. The Asia Pacific region accounted for 74% of Malaysia's export of wood and 84% of its export of pulp and paper products. The US is the single most important market for Malaysia outside the Asia Pacific.

Malaysia has 519,765 ha (1,284,367 acres) of FSC-certified forest (Nov. 2014).

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Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality:

FOREST LEVEL

- Forestry Departments (FD) for Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah
- Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC)

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Royal Customs Department
- Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
- Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC)
- Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB)
- Sabah Forestry Department

Corruption Perceptions Index

52 (50th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>



Borneo pygmy elephant

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Additional Comments

The Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (AILPA) of 2012 is now fully implemented. The Act aims to reduce the harmful environmental, social and economic impacts of illegal logging. Importers in Australia will refer to the Malaysian Country Specific Guide (MCSG) for documentation of due diligence. The MCSG contains guidance on legality documentation for Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. According to the MCSG, the Export Licenses issued by these three regions shall be used to verify compliance with legal requirements.

The National Forestry Policy (NFP), adopted by all states in Peninsular Malaysia and supported by Sabah and Sarawak, aims to promote sustainable harvesting and efficient utilization of forest resources in Malaysia. Despite the government's efforts to tighten legislation on forestry operations and trade, some of the country's valuable lowland rain forests have been converted to other uses such as agriculture and oil palm plantations, and most remaining forests have been logged.

Determining legality of imported timber is difficult due to the lack of proper documentation to establish legality. There is no legal need to establish chain of custody back to the harvesting area in many cases, and for most laws, chain of custody may only extend from forest to mill and not onwards.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Malaysia

- Check with the Forestry Departments in Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah, and the Malaysian Timber Industries Board on the exporting company's status (manufacturers have to register with MTIB)
- Demand Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management or controlled wood certificates and chain of custody certificates



Rafflesia pricei

© GERALD S. CUBITT / WWF-CANON

- Check the certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Consult relevant government authorities and local environmental NGOs

Online resources

Global Forest and Trade Network
Sourcing.gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/resources/species.html

APHIS and Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act/

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
www.iucnredlist.org

Forestry Department-Peninsular Malaysia
www.forestry.gov.my

Sabah Forestry Department
www.forest.sabah.gov.my

Sarawak Forestry Department
www.forestry.sarawak.gov.my

Sarawak Forestry Corporation
www.sarawakforestry.com

Malaysian Timber Industries Board
www.mtib.gov.my

Malaysian Timber Certification Council
www.mtcc.com.my



Myanmar

Information to support responsible trade in forest products



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Myanmar is one of the most forested countries in Southeast Asia, home to diverse and valuable ecosystems. However, it also has one of the region's highest deforestation rates, driven by agricultural expansion, fuelwood collection and uncontrolled commercial logging. Myanmar is an important regional producer of roundwood and sawnwood, with products bound for the US and the EU through China, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. However, much of the domestically harvested timber exported from Yangon's ports does not originate from legally designated production forests. Fortunately, wood product buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to help buyers evaluate and reduce their sourcing risk in Myanmar.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activities

Concentrated illegal logging occurs in border areas, notably along the Thai border (Kayin/Karen State and Tanintharyi Region) and the Chinese border (Kachin State, Shan State and Sagaing Region). Illegality can be difficult to discern because timber sourced from different areas is mixed in the same pool when exported from Yangon.

High-risk species

- Teak (*Tectona grandis*)
- Keruing (*Dipterocarpus* spp.)
- Balau/Selangan batu (*Shorea* spp.)
- Burma padauk (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*)

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- Pyinkado (*Xylia* spp.)
- Burmese rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.)
- Merbau (*Intsia* spp.)
- Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.)
- Sepetir (*Sindora* spp.)

Primary forest product exports

- Industrial roundwood
- Sawnwood
- Wood charcoal

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Artisanal (small-scale) logging
- Logging of protected species, over-harvesting
- Unauthorized logging outside of state-managed production forests

Other common illegalities

- Abuse of power by public officials
- Irregularities in the award of harvesting sub-contracts to private companies
- Unauthorised export of timber across land borders instead of MTE channels

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- Clearing of natural forests for timber production is legalized by designating the forests as concessions for industrial commodity crop plantations
- Timber that does not originate from state-owned production forests or is otherwise illegal is filtered through MTE when it is exported from Yangon port
- Unprocessed timber is illegally transported across borders and mixed with MTE timber



FOREST FACTS

Myanmar's natural forests cover 30.8 million hectares (47% of total land area), but dense closed forests cover less than 20% of total and area. About 22 million hectares of forest are designated as a permanent forest estate for production and protection objectives.



Myanmar is home to about 45% of the world's natural teak (*Tectona grandis*) forests, and teak is one of its most valuable timber species. Exports of wood products reached over US\$1.59 billion in 2013, with industrial roundwood accounting for 88% of this value.

Note: Effective April 2014, exports of logs, baulks, boules and hewn timber are prohibited by law. These products must be further processed locally before export. The operation of this ban remains unclear.

India is the main buyer of teak and other hardwoods from Myanmar. Other importers include China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Myanmar has no FSC-certified forests or CoC certificates.

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Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- *The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF)* - Responsible for forest management and policy, including conservation and exploitation
- *Forest Department (FD)* - Under MOECAF, authorizes harvesting and carries out post-harvest assessments

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- *Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE)* - A state-owned enterprise under MOECAF, solely responsible for extraction, transport and trade of timber

Corruption Perceptions Index

21 (156th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional Comments

Logs and rough-sawn timber account for a vast majority of Myanmar's export of forest products, though this is likely to change with the recent export ban. Technically, the only legal route for timber exports from Myanmar is through Yangon under the authority of MTE.



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Although the Myanmar government claims that it is sourcing exclusively from state-managed forests, experts believe that a large percentage of timber comes from natural production and conversion forests where controls are weak, allowing illegal timber to be mixed into supply chains. Notably, the Myanmar government does not administer most logging in natural forests outside of state-managed forests (which are largely teak-bearing).

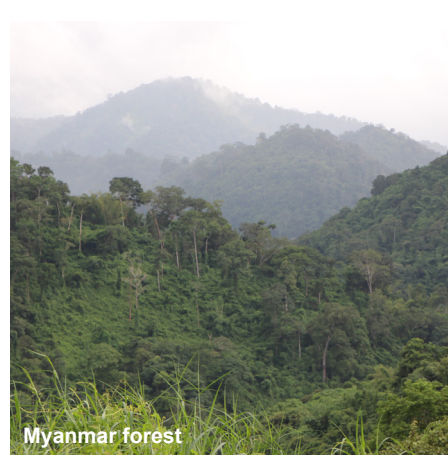
In areas lacking central government control, timber is still being smuggled to neighboring countries, especially from unofficial concessions in natural forests in ethnic areas. Teak from Myanmar is also re-labelled in some regional importing countries as coming from domestic sources, allowing for processing and onward export without revealing its true origin.

Systems exist to track timber from the forest of origin to the point of export, but they are complex and only patchily implemented. Recent assessments point to a lack of data on forest resources and production, limited management capacities, and fragmented and politicized decision making as the main hurdles to ensuring legality.

Recommendations for companies sourcing from Myanmar

The lifting of economic sanctions means—in principle—there is no longer any legal barrier to trading in timber from Myanmar. However, some countries still prohibit dealing with certain Myanmar individuals and entities, some of whom may be involved in the timber trade. Buyers should contact their relevant government agency to review the sanctions list before making any transaction. This advice applies to US buyers in particular, as the MTE is on the US government's Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list (<http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/SDN-List/Pages/default.aspx>).

Importers of processed wood products, such as wood panels and furniture, should also ask their suppliers to provide



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the following documentation:

- Evidence of legal harvest, which may include harvest permits and harvest verifications (by FD and MTE)
- Evidence of legal processing and sales, which may include MTE sales records (if the timber is controlled by MTE) and/or FD authorization for the processing (if the timber is auctioned by MTE to private companies), as well as Customs/Commerce authorization for the export
- Transport permits
- CITES permits (if the species is CITES-listed)

In addition, importers should:

- Verify any certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs, Forest Department officials and officials of the Myanmar Timber Merchants Association (MTMA)

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org



Panama

Information to support responsible trade in forest products

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As a bridge between two continents, Panama's tropical rainforests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, including iconic species such as the jaguar, the harpy eagle and Baird's tapir. These forests form part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and are particularly important for bird species migrating between North and South America. With over 8,000 plant species and nearly 1,000 sighted bird species, Panama's Darien region, which borders with Colombia, contains over 41% of the country's mature natural forests and is part of WWF's Choco-Darien priority Ecoregion; not only one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth, but also home to several indigenous groups. However, illegal and unsustainable logging practices pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, buyers of wood products can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Panama.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Panama East and Darien regions (between Atlantic and Pacific coasts)

High-risk species

- Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)
- Cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa*)
- Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*)

- Purple heart (*Peltogyne purpurea*)
- Cativo (*Prioria copaifera*)
- Fiddlewood (*Vitex cooperi*)

Note: Panama has maintained a ban on the export of logs, stumps, roundwood or sawnwood of any species from natural forests since 2002.

Primary forest product exports

- Rough sawn green tropical timber
- Five- to ten-year-old plantation teak logs/blocks (from thinnings)
- Sawn timber from coniferous plantations (mainly *Pinus caribaea*)
- Tropical wood flooring and decking (balsam, ipe)

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Subsistence permits and transport guides granted on a discretionary basis (without required inspections) authorize overestimated volumes and species not found in the permit's harvest area
- Accumulation of subsistence permits by local wood traders results in large-scale "legalization" of illegally harvested species and volumes
- Logging outside of licensed areas and in prohibited areas, including illegal logging in protected areas within licensed areas
- Illegal land clearing of natural forest for cattle ranches (cleared wood sold)

Other common illegalities

- Logging by unlicensed/unregistered individuals (e.g., informal logging by indigenous or afro-darienite communities)



FOREST FACTS

Panama's 3.8 million hectares (7.66 million acres) of natural forest cover 51% of the country.



In 2013, Panama exported US\$39 million in wood products and nearly US\$31 million in pulp and paper products.

Panama has 43,413 hectares (107,276 acres) of FSC-certified forest (Nov. 2014).

WWF is currently working, in collaboration with its strategic partners ANAM and the ITTO, to strengthen governance and traceability in Panama's forestry sector. The project includes a pilot program aimed at testing and refining a new traceability system, as well as an outreach campaign for promoting sustainable forest management and responsible trade.

For more information about GFTN in Panama: http://gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/latin_america/gftn_nacd/

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Tapir

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- Logging and smuggling of endangered species (e.g., mahogany or cocobolo)
- Lack of enforcement of export regulations (exports permits given for rough sawn/green timber where only finished products are permitted)
- Issuing of CITES export permits based on false declarations of origin (“dead tree” permits for previously felled trees)

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become “legal”

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

- Corrupt forest inspectors facilitate harvest and transport permits without inspections pre- and/or post-harvest
- The large number of permits overloads the environmental authority’s ability to carry out the required inspections for permit approval (lending these permits for laundering of illegally harvested wood)

FOREST LEVEL

- Wood is legalized before leaving the forest by obtaining subsistence permits for specific volumes and then harvesting a different species or area
- Companies/permit holders falsify information (e.g., species and volumes)

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Larger volumes or different species are legalized when they go through check points because of the lack of appropriate control mechanisms for verification of harvest permits and transport guides
- Containers for export are loaded with green timber near the extraction site, and then bypass check points and export controls through arrangements with corrupt enforcement agents

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

NATIONAL LEVEL ADMINISTRATION

- ANAM - Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (National Environmental Authority)

JUDICIAL LEVEL

- Ministerio Público - Fiscalía Ambiental (Public Prosecutors Office Environmental Division)

REGIONAL LEVEL

- Regional ANAM offices

ENFORCEMENT

- SENAFRONT (National Border Service)
- Policía Nacional (Police Force)

Corruption Perceptions Index

37 (94th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Much of the illegal activity is believed to be related to corruption in the government agencies managing the harvest permit system. In addition, in large management areas such as the Darien region, there are too few resources for enforcement of management plans and legal application of harvest permits.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Vietnam

Importers should ask their suppliers to provide the following documentation:

- General Management Plan (PGM)

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Annual Operations Plan (POA)
- Annual Harvest Permit (PAC)
- *Guia de Transporte* or transport permit (specifies how much timber has been authorized and should be consistent with the PAC)
- *Guia de Exportacion* (export permit)

In addition, importers should:

- Demand credible, third-party-verified forest management and chain of custody certificates
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Inquire if companies participate in initiatives for responsible forestry
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and ANAM’s forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

Forest Legality Alliance
risk.forestlegality.org/countries/vietnam

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Young Harpy eagle on his nest

© ZIG KOCH / WWF



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Peru's Amazon forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, but illegal and unsustainable logging pose a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Peru.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Loreto
- Ucayali
- Madre de Dios

Top five high-risk species

- Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)
CITES Appendix II
- Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*)
CITES Appendix III
- Cumarú (*Dipteryx micrantha*)
- Lupuna (*Ceiba pentandra*)
- Estoraque (*Myroxylon balsamum*)

Note: Peru has maintained a log export ban since 1972.

Primary forest product exports

- Logs
- Sawn wood
- Limited flooring and decking
- Few finished products

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging by unlicensed companies
- Illegal logging-related corruption
- Logging protected species
- Logging outside of licensed areas and in prohibited areas, including illegal logging in protected areas within licensed areas
- Issuing CITES export permits based on false documents and declaration

Other common illegalities

- Forged/falsified documents (e.g., transport or export documents)
- Corrupt actions by local forest agents

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

FOREST LEVEL

- Documents are forged to misrepresent the origin of the wood

FOREST OR FACTORY LEVEL

- Companies/concessionaires misrepresent information such as species and volumes

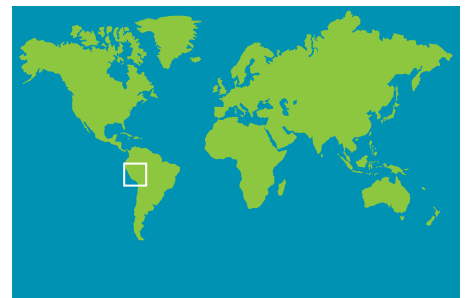
INSPECTION POINTS

- Volumes are forged

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre – SERFOR (National Forest and Wildlife Service)



FOREST FACTS

Peru has vast tropical forest cover spanning 64.6 million hectares (159,630,076 acres); 92% of Peruvian forests are part of the Amazon.



Peru had a timber product export of US\$152 million in 2013. The top three export destinations were China, the US and Mexico. Peru also exported nearly US\$102 million of pulp and paper products that year. Most of these exports ended in Latin American regional markets.

Peru has 743,513 hectares (1,837,260 acres) of FSC-certified forest (Mar. 2015).

For more information about GFTN-Peru: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/latin_america/peru/

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Amazon river dolphin

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FOREST TRANSPORT

- Permits are issued by the Dirección Regional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre – DGFFS (Forest and Wildlife Regional office) or the Administrador Técnico Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre – ATFFS (Technical Administration for Forests and Wildlife), depending on the region

Corruption Perceptions Index

38 (85th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Forest governance in Peru has been criticized for a lack of transparency in forest-related activities and inefficiency of forest harvest and transport permitting systems. Although local forest authority offices maintain records on sawmills and location of harvest, this information is not currently integrated into national forest authority systems, nor is it available to the public. Furthermore, the personnel needed to review forest

management plans and enforce forest laws are challenged by the vastness and physical geography of Peru’s forests. The lack of resources to enforce proper documentation of legally harvested wood through the supply chain presents a challenge to tracing products back to the forest of origin.

Currently there are no reliable estimates for the scale of illegal activity in the forest sector in Peru. Estimates from 2005 stated that up to 80% of Peruvian timber trade was suspicious in some way.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products

- Require suppliers to provide evidence of legal procurement, which may include
 - verification by Organismo de Supervisión de los Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre – OSINFOR (entity in charge of natural resources and wildlife supervision)
 - authorization by DGFFS or ATFFS, depending on the region
- Demand a credible, third-party-verified forest management and chain of custody certificate

- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Inquire if companies participate in initiatives for responsible forestry (e.g., GFTN, TFT)
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Ocelot

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Russian Far East

Information to support responsible trade in forest products

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Russia's temperate forests in the Russian Far East are important areas for biodiversity conservation – home to the endangered Amur tiger and Amur leopard. But illegal and unsustainable logging poses a significant threat to these forests and the biodiversity they host. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in the Russian Far East.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activities

- Primorsky Krai
- Khabarovsk Krai
- Amurskaya Oblast
- Zabaykalsky Krai

High-risk species

- Mongolian oak (*Quercus mongolica*) CITES-listed
- Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) CITES-listed
- Amur linden (*Tilia amurensis*)
- Manchurian linden (*T. manshurica*)
- Japanese elm (*Ulmus japonica*)
- Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*) CITES-listed

Primary forest product exports

- Roundwood
- Sawnwood
- Wood-based panels

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Logging by unlicensed loggers
- Logging beyond authorized harvest areas, including protected areas
- Logging above permitted volumes on authorized logging sites
- Harvesting unauthorized species (e.g., high-quality timber instead of sick, dying and poorly-formed trees authorized for harvest)
- Logging in protected areas
- Commercial logging under the guise of logging to meet local community needs

Other common illegalities

- Under-declaration of volumes
- Under-declaration of value (including false labelling of species)
- Corrupt actions by local forest agents
- Customs agents do not check legality of roundwood

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

- Wood is legalized before leaving the forest by falsifying documents
- Wood placed in the market is legalized with false documentation and then sold
- Wood becomes legal after sawmilling (e.g., customs officers have no right to check the origin of sawnwood if other documents are correct)



FOREST FACTS

Russia has the largest forest area in the world with 809 million hectares (1.99 billion acres) of forests; the area managed by the Federal Forestry Service is 197 million ha (1.97 billion acres) (Federal State Statistics Service 2011).

Nearly 77% of Russia's total forested area is in Siberia (60%) and the Far East (17%).

In 2013, Russia exported over US\$7.3 billion in wood products and nearly US\$3.2 billion in pulp and paper products. China was Russia's largest export market, accounting for 30% of wood products and 22% of pulp and paper products.

Russia has 37,725,963 hectares (93,222,885 acres) of FSC-certified forest, mainly softwoods (Nov. 2014).

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Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

FOREST LEVEL

- Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Federal Taxation Service
- Regional authorities

TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Federal Customs Service
- Regional authorities

Corruption Perceptions Index

27 (136th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional Comments

Illegal timber in the Far East Region mainly comes from two sources. Firstly, logging in protected areas or prohibited areas (e.g., parks, steep slopes and riparian areas) has become a serious issue because legal commercial timber zones are already depleted. Secondly, there are widespread cases of illegal activities by companies and state agencies logging on authorized sites, including over-logging and logging of export-quality species in places where only intermediate logging is permitted. In addition, endangered species, such as Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*), which is listed under CITES and illegal to harvest, are still being



Pacific Coast, Southern Primorsky Province, Far East, Russian Federation

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Amur or Siberian tiger

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logged and traded. It is estimated that approximately 75% of hardwood timber from this region is illegally logged (harvested by small companies which hold small leases and are usually not certified).

Traceability for hardwood timber is difficult, partly because of the complex and ambiguous flow of wood products from the Russian Far East through China to the US and EU markets. Logs extracted from the Russian Far East are almost exclusively exported to China where they are processed into furniture and sold to both Chinese and Western markets.

Recommendations for companies sourcing from the Russian Far East

Global companies that are importing Chinese furniture and flooring made from Far Eastern hardwoods, which may be manufactured and exported from Russia or China, face high risk of purchasing products made from illegally obtained wood. Firms can mitigate these risks by adopting the following approaches:

- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- For products made with Russian oak, ash, elm or linden, exclusively purchase wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), realizing the supply of certified Russian Far Eastern hardwoods is extremely limited
- If FSC is not available, establish rigorous legality confirmation systems. Such a system should adhere to the following principles:
 1. Documentation: request timber logging authorization documents from

suppliers, including:

- The Forest Declaration (лесная декларация), which specifies logging area, volumes, species and name of the lessee
 - The Lease Contract (договор аренды), signed by the provincial government
 - The Goods Transport Document (for all goods transported via roads)
2. Field verification: documents provided by suppliers need to be field checked by an independent third party with experience in legality verification
- If no legality confirmation is possible, avoid furniture, flooring and other wood products made from hardwoods that could be of Russian Far East origin (especially oak, ash, elm and linden)

Other Resources

WWF Russia – Keep it Legal
wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/eng/409

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

Chatham House
illegal-logging.info

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org



Vietnam

Information to support responsible trade in forest products

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Vietnam has emerged as an important player in the wood processing industry, exporting finished wood products like indoor and outdoor furniture to around 120 countries. Vietnam's dry evergreen, montane and rain forests are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth, but much of its original forest cover was lost in the second half of the 20th century to unsustainable exploitation. In 1992, Vietnam responded to a dramatic decline in its forest cover by imposing laws to limit logging in natural forests and launching nationwide reforestation programs. As a result, local manufacturers began relying on other countries for their timber supply. This demand has fueled illegal and unsustainable logging in some key forest regions such as the Lower Mekong. Fortunately, wood products buyers can play a key role in forest conservation through their purchasing decisions. This fact sheet is designed to assist wood products buyers with evaluating and reducing their sourcing risk in Vietnam.

Regions with high levels of illegal logging activity

- Central highland and coastal provinces including Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Ha Tinh (Note: From 2014 onwards, the Vietnamese government has decided to stop all harvesting in natural forests, except for two companies holding FSC FM certificates for natural forests.)

High-risk species

- Yellow balau (*Shorea* spp.)
- Burma padauk (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*)
- Sua (*Dalbergia tonkinensis*)
- Keruing (*Dipterocarpus* spp.)
- Pyinkado (*Xylia xylocarpa*)
- Lim (*Erythrophleum fordii*)
- Sepetir (*Sindora* spp.)

Forest product exports

- Wooden furniture (outdoor and indoor) and parts (including wooden seats)
- Hardwood wood chips

Common types of forest-level illegalities

- Artisanal (small-scale) logging
- Logging of protected species
- Logging outside of licensed areas and in protected areas
- Logging more than allowed volumes

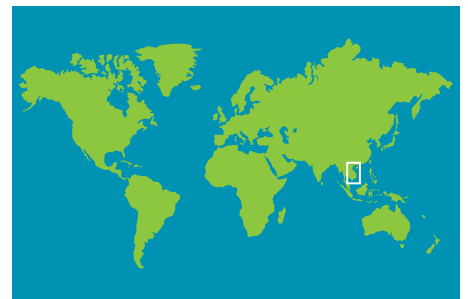
Other common illegalities

- Abuse of power by low-level and mid-level public officials (e.g., demanding bribes)
- Illegal sawmilling

Points in the supply chain where timber is likely to become "legal"

FOREST LEVEL

- Wood is legalized when harvest permits are issued in advance for the forest area to be harvested and for wood volume.



FOREST FACTS

Vietnam has 13.95 million hectares of forest, of which 10.4 million hectares are considered natural forest.

Vietnam's total wood exports reportedly reached US\$6.2 billion in 2014. It is the sixth-largest exporter of wooden furniture in the world.

Vietnam was China's fifth-largest source of wood and articles of wood in 2013. Over 51% of China's hardwood chip imports by value in 2013 came from Vietnam while 81% of Vietnam's roundwood and sawnwood exports went to China.

Note: There is a ban on exporting logs and sawntimber from natural forests. However, logs and other primary wood products from plantations and logs imported for re-export can be exported.

The country has 133,823 hectares (330,683 acres) of FSC FM-certified forest and 530 FSC CoC certificates (Mar. 2015).

For more information visit: gftn.panda.org/gftn_worldwide/asia/vietnam_ftn

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Gibbon

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TRADE/EXPORT LEVEL

- Local traders/importers (e.g., through sophisticated forged documentation)
- Sawmill (e.g., through auctioning of confiscated timber to sawmills)

Primary government agencies charged with enforcing timber legality

- People's committees (Ủy ban nhân dân) at province and community levels issue the approvals for forest harvesting of natural forest, state enterprises, and plantations
- The Department of Forest Protection (Cục Kiểm Lâm) at the central government level (and its branches at province and district levels) oversees logging, transportation, monitoring and handling of wood to the point of sale
- The Ministry of Industry and Trade (Bộ Công Thương) and the General Department of Customs (Tổng cục Hải quan) oversee imports and exports of wood and wood products

Corruption Perceptions Index

31 (119th out of 175 countries)

The Corruption Perceptions Index scores countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is a composite index, a combination of polls, drawing on corruption-related data collected by a variety of reputable institutions. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>

Additional comments

Vietnamese companies source wood from more than 100 countries worldwide, including countries with a high risk of illegality, such as Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The Vietnamese importers of natural timber with a high risk of illegality sell mostly to China and other regional markets, and most are indoor furniture manufacturers. Also, there are companies sourcing from plantations. Plantation timber imports come primarily from South America, Southeast Asia and South Africa, and much of it (an estimated 90%) is FSC-certified.

Recommendations for companies sourcing forest products from Vietnam

Importers should ask their suppliers to provide the following documentation:

- Evidence of legal procurement, which may include harvest permits and harvest verifications (the latter are issued by local forest rangers)
- VAT invoices (in Vietnam, only registered businesses can issue VAT invoices; farmers and community forest producers cannot)
- Sales contracts for timber between forest company and sawmill or secondary wood processor
- Transport permits (depending on province)

- Timber delivery lists issued by sawmills
- CITES permits (if the timber species is CITES-listed)

In addition, importers should:

- Demand a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management and chain of custody certificate
- Verify certified wood claims with relevant online databases
- Contact personnel on the ground, such as local NGOs and forest authorities

Online resources

Global Forest & Trade Network
gftn.panda.org

CITES
cites.org/eng/disc/species.php

APHIS and the Lacey Act
aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act

Global Forest Registry
globalforestregistry.org

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illegal-logging.info

Forest Legality Alliance
risk.forestlegality.org/countries/vietnam

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

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Tropical forest in northern Vietnam

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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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