



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

The Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region

APEC Policy Support Unit

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Illegal logging and its associated trade reduce economies' revenues that could otherwise be derived from the sustainable management of forests and hurt the price for legally harvested wood products. About 80 percent of global wood products trade takes place in APEC economies, amounting to over USD 150 billion in value. Given the importance of wood product trade in the region and the emergence of new legal and trade frameworks, there is a growing need for private sector operators to coordinate their approaches to better identify, manage, and minimise timber legality risks when engaging in cross-border supply chains.

The trade of legal timber can be facilitated by a range of resources that provide information on risk profiles, legal information, resources, and tools. However, such information is often fragmented and difficult to digest. Additionally, there is a lack of a central resource that can direct forestry product operators to the right place for their specific queries and needs, which are likely to be diverse and determined by the products they are dealing with, their origins and economy-specific laws. The business sector is thus in need of a comprehensive inventory of resources that will assist in the trade of legal forest products.

A range of existing relevant resources, tools, and materials have been identified in this report that can be used by operators to navigate economies' legal frameworks and determine legality in order to facilitate the trade of legal forest products. Information included within these resources provide relevant legislation, risk assessments, compendiums, infographics, guides, and search tools that equip timber businesses with information relevant to conducting their business. The compendium compiled resources and tools designed to benefit private operators within the APEC region, as well as information from outside the region, given the broad range of resources.

The final compendium of legal timber resources is organised by resource type (legislation, risk assessment, due diligence toolkits, for example) and by resource provider (government, international organizations, and NGOs, and civil society organizations). Each resource summary table provides information that was gathered and summarised from the survey, as well as publicly available information and feedback from APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) members.

EGILAT members may wish to explore ways to increase the dissemination and practical use of this important compendium so as to assist stakeholders in conducting legal trade in forest products. This could include a dialogue with featured resource providers and other partners to increase awareness of the compendium, updating and refining its contents and usability over time, and otherwise maximising its impact.

II. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Illegal logging and its associated trade deprive economies of significant revenues derived from the legal and sustainable management of their forests and negatively affect the price for legally harvested wood products. APEC economies account for over 50 percent of the world's forests and approximately 80 percent of the global trade in wood products, valued at over USD 150 billion. With the emergence of a range of new legal and trade frameworks within the APEC region, there is a growing need for private sector operators¹ to better understand and manage the timber legality risks in their supply chains across borders.

This project is directly supportive of and consistent with APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade's (EGILAT) stated goal of 'promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products' as set out in its Terms of Reference. It is also strongly linked to EGILAT's two-year policy theme that is focused on "Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products". Through this theme, EGILAT aims to address the growing requirement for private sector entities to understand and manage the risks involved in timber legality. The project also supports several objectives set out in EGILAT's 2018 – 2022 multi-year plan, including: 'exchange information and increase knowledge on...promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products'; and 'encourage the active participation of industry and civil society to...promote trade in legally harvested forest products'. In a broader APEC context, this project will also support trade facilitation efforts for legally harvested forest products as well as in promoting sustainable development.

A range of resources that provide information on the risk profiles of economies, legal information, resources and tools to assist with the trade of legal timber already exist. This information is however often disparate in nature and complex in practice. There is also a lack of a central resource that is able to guide forestry product operators to the right place for their specific needs and queries, which are likely to be diverse and dependent on the nature of the products they are dealing with and their origins. A literature gap thus exists for a compendium of resources that will play a targeted role in assisting the trade in legal forest products, which will in turn have a tangible impact on the business sector.

1.2. Objectives of the Research Project

- Identify and document relevant existing resources, tools and materials that have been created by parties² that wish to facilitate the trade-in legal forest products. These resources include guides to regulation, economy risk assessments, economy-specific guides, reference materials and any other tools that can help members of the private sector determine legality.
- Apply a framework to review and compile existing relevant resources while identifying only the resources that are best able to guide and assist operators in conducting trade in legally harvested forest products in the APEC region.

¹ Throughout this document, the term 'operators' is used to encompass relevant stakeholders and businesses involved in the harvesting, processing, transporting and trade of timber products.

² In this context, 'parties' include but are not limited to: multilateral organisations; APEC and non-APEC economies, environmental and social non-government organisations, industry and trade associations, 3rd party forest certifiers and individual companies or service providers.

- Provide an easy to understand and digestible compendium of resources that will assist operators in conducting trade in legal forest products.

III. REVIEW OF RELATED TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS

2.1. Timber Supply Chain

Before a timber product reaches its final customer or point of sale, it goes through several stages. A typical timber supply chain involves the following stages or discrete points:^{3,4}

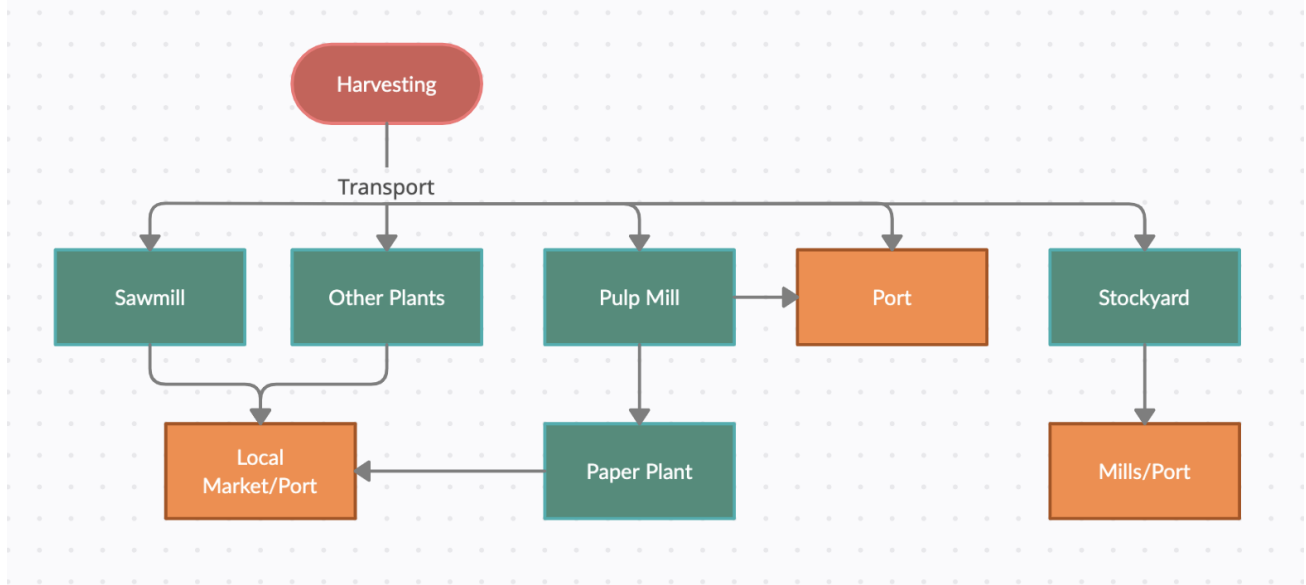
1. **Harvesting:** The felling of trees and preparation for their transport to mills; covering thinning and clear felling operations.
2. **Log yard:** After being harvested, the processed timber is stored in a log yard.
3. **Sawmill:** Sawmills can be regarded as the first industrial or manufacturing stage of timber production. Customers at this stage may include international contractors and landscaping companies, stockists, wholesalers, timber operators, agricultural merchants, specifiers and panel and pallet manufacturers.
4. **Processing:** From the sawmills, logs are further refined and moulded into a range of materials or products such as cross laminated timber, timber frame housing, panel products, windows and doors, flooring, cladding, decking, furniture and paper.
5. **Transportation:** Transportation of timber through railways, roads and shipping plays an important role in adding value to the timber industry for further processing.
6. **Merchants:** Merchants function as local consolidation depots like suppliers, distributors and importers that connect to final customers.
7. **Manufacturing and construction:** The finished products are then sold to the final users or customers. The furniture, construction and paper industries are key users of timber materials.

An example of a timber supply chain is provided in Figure 1.

³ Mtibaa, F. and Chaabane, A. (2014). Forestry wood supply chain information system using RFID technology.

⁴ Forestry Focus. Retrieved from: <https://www.forestryfocus.ie/growing-forests-3/harvesting/>

Figure 1. Timber Supply Chain



Source: Adapted from Weintraub A., Epstein R. (2002) The Supply Chain in the Forest Industry: Models and Linkages. In: Geunes J., Pardalos P.M., Romeijn H.E. (eds) Supply Chain Management: Models, Applications, and Research Directions. Applied Optimization, vol 62. Springer, Boston, MA.

Since we are adopting a supply chain perspective, various types of businesses along the supply chain would find the resources useful to their operations. For this study and the final compendium, the target audience is businesses involved in the harvesting, processing, transporting and trade of timber products.

2.2. Timber Legality Requirements

Illegal logging and its associated trade are understood to refer to the harvesting, processing, transporting or trading of timber or wood products in contravention of the relevant domestic laws or regulations of the economy of harvest, where applicable (APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, 2015).⁵ Relevant domestic laws or regulations are those related to the protection, conservation, or management of forests and timber.⁶ Categories of laws or regulations may include harvesting of timber in specified areas; granting of permits, licenses or other authorisations to harvest timber; payments connected with harvesting of timber; and transportation, export or transshipment of timber or wood products.⁷

Illegal forest activities as defined by Tacconi et al. (2003:3) include “all illegal acts that relate to forest ecosystems, forest-related industries, and timber and non-timber forest products. They range from acts related to the establishment of rights to the land to corrupt activities to acquire forest concessions, and activities at all stages of forest management and the forest goods production chain, from the planning stages to harvesting and transport of raw material and finished products to financial management”. Similarly, an assessment carried out by Chatham House used a broadly encompassing definition of “illegal logging”, defining it as “all illegal practices related to the harvesting, processing and trading of timber” (Hoare, 2015:2). The International Union of Forest

⁵ APEC Common Understanding Document. Retrieved from: https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/-/media/Files/Groups/EGILAT/15_sce3_017_zcommon-understanding-of-scope-of-ILAT.docx?la=en&hash=9BDA4E953C30CB931A61EC8CB1DB9CF91C0D1EE3&hash=9BDA4E953C30CB931A61EC8CB1DB9CF91C0D1EE3.

⁶ APEC Common Understanding Document.

⁷ APEC Common Understanding Document.

Research Organisations (IUFRO)-led Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) assessment also uses the following broad definition of illegal logging and related timber trade: “all practices related to the harvesting, processing and trading of timber inconsistent with [domestic] and [sub-domestic] law”.

The legislation adopted by timber-importing economies defines illegal timber as timber harvested in contravention of producing economies’ laws. There are many requirements on timber legality as each economy has different domestic regulations that define ‘legal timber’. Moreover, each economy may have additional categories of laws or regulations that identify which activities constitute illegal logging and associated trade under its domestic legal system.⁸

APEC economies consider the following primary categories of laws or regulations related to the protection, conservation or management of forests and timber as relevant to identifying illegal logging and associated trade (APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, 2015):

- (a) Prohibit or regulate the harvesting of timber in specified areas;
- (b) Regulate the harvesting of timber, including the granting of permits, licenses or other authorisations to harvest;
- (c) Require payments in connection with the harvesting of timber; or
- (d) Prohibit or regulate the transportation, export or transshipment of timber or wood products.

Similar to those identified by APEC, Brown et. al. (2008: p. 231) suggested restricting the scope of a legality standard to the following components:⁹

- Legal origin: the legal right to harvest, including prior determination and settlement of tenurial claims, legal gazettment of concession boundaries, as well as the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities with respect to cutting operations on community lands;
- Legal harvesting: compliance with permit conditions, payment of royalties, forest management regulations including mandatory C&I for SFM, as well as laws on environment, labour and welfare and health and safety;
- Legal processing: compliance with domestic processing quotas, guarantees against mixing with non-legal sources, and payment of processing levies; and
- Legal trade and export: export licensing, procurement of necessary Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) authorisation and customs clearance.

On an international level, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in its National Risk Assessment Framework highlighted the indicators and considerations above and some additional ones for the risk assessment of illegally harvested wood: legal rights to harvest; taxes and fees; timber

⁸ APEC Common Understanding Document. Retrieved from: https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/-/media/Files/Groups/EGILAT/15_sce3_017_zcommon-understanding-of-scope-of-ILAT.docx?la=en&hash=9BDA4E953C30CB931A61EC8CB1DB9CF91C0D1EE3&hash=9BDA4E953C30CB931A61EC8CB1DB9CF91C0D1EE3.

⁹ Brown, D., Schreckenber, K., Bird, N., Cerutti, P., Gato, F., Diaw, C., Fomété, T., Luttrell, C., Navarro, G., Oberdorf, R., Thiel, H., and Wells, A. (2008). Legal Timber. Verification and Governance in the Forest Sector. London: Overseas Development Institute.

harvesting; third parties' rights; trade and transport; and due diligence/due care.¹⁰ The framework has also been adopted as the basis for timber risk assessments by Preferred by Nature (Appendix B).

For completeness, we outline the categories of law that have been used by different APEC economies and international organisations to determine the legality of timber in Appendix A.

Certain documents may be used to satisfy the requirements of each category of law, however, these may differ across economies. As per the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), the following information and documents are likely to be relevant for operators when determining compliance with the legislation of the economy of harvest.

Category of law	Examples of possible documents or information
Legal right to harvest timber	Evidence of legal authority to harvest: documentation of ownership rights or right to land use, concession licenses, felling permits and land conversion permits. Evidence showing that the timber has been harvested in authorised areas: maps with markings of the precise origin of timber; officially approved harvest and forest management plans; audit reports.
Payments for harvest rights	Official records proving payments for harvest rights and taxes, as well as fees, have been completed.
Timber harvesting, including environmental and forest legislation	Evidence that other legislation governing timber harvesting has been complied with: may include official audit reports; environmental clearance certificates; approved harvest plans; harvest closure reports; environmental impact assessments; processing certificates, etc.
Rights of third parties	Evidence of compliance with third parties' legal rights e.g. local communities' rights such as: environmental impact assessments; management plans and audit reports; social responsibility agreements; specific reports on tenure and rights claims, and conflicts.
Trade and customs, including fiscal obligations	Evidence that customs processes have been complied with, such as, timber has been declared and customs duties have been paid: customs declaration forms; official receipts for appropriate tariffs; export tax receipts; documents issued by customs authorities, such as export and import licenses; official receipts indicating that other taxes and fees have been paid.

Source: ClientEarth. (2015). Implications of the EU Timber Regulation for non-EU timber industry. <https://www.documents.clientearth.org/wp-content/uploads/library/2015-09-21-implications-of-the-eu-timber-regulation-for-non-eu-timber-industry-ce-en.pdf>

From our literature review, we have identified and summarised the following categories as essential to establish the legality of timber concerning different stages in the supply chain:

1. **Legal right to harvest:** to identify compliance with laws and regulations regarding protected species of flora and fauna and their habitat including compliance with customary law concerning indigenous people's rights. Examples of documents to demonstrate compliance:
 - A copy of the license or Timber Harvesting plan showing that the company has the right to harvest wood from a particular area;
 - A permit from the relevant forestry authorities;
 - Evidence that the company has paid fees or taxes that must be paid to the state or local government in connection with obtaining the permission to manage or harvest; and any fees or taxes associated with the volume of timber actually harvested.

¹⁰ FSC. (2014). FSC National Risk Assessment Framework. (FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN). Retrieved from: <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/377>

2. **Legality of possession and transport:** to allow the traceability of timber along the various locations of the supply chain to the final customer. Examples of documents to demonstrate compliance:
 - Evidence that the company has used the required documents and/or stamps or marks when transporting logs or timber.

3. **Legality of processing:** to ensure compliance with domestic processing quotas and ensure due diligence against mixing with non-legal sources. Examples of documents to demonstrate compliance:
 - Evidence that the company has acquired any required license and has paid any fees or taxes that must be paid to the state or local government in connection with timber processing.

4. **Compliance with trade procedures:** due diligence to ensure that the products and species can be exported or imported. Examples of documents to demonstrate compliance:
 - A bill of lading identifying when and by whom the wood was exported.
 - Contracts of sale showing when and to whom the wood was sold and demonstrating that the exporter legally owned the wood.
 - A certificate of origin stamped by the relevant government authority for the consignment in question.
 - Customs documentation from the economy where the wood originated, to show that it was legally exported and that all export taxes were paid.
 - Customs documentation from the economy to which the wood was imported, indicating that the wood was legally imported with all relevant duties paid.

5. **Risk mitigation and assessment:** to assess risk and perform necessary due diligence processes. This item may include any documents that prove compliance with legal origin as well as certifications related to endangered species or guides to identify fake documents. Examples of documents or resources:
 - CITES documentation, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).
 - Guides for responsible timber trade, for example:
 - i. Practical guide to conducting due diligence of tropical timber products (<https://www.bvrio.com/plataforma/plataforma/manuais.do>)
 - ii. Guide to observing responsible business conduct and undertaking due diligence along agricultural supply chains (<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/rbc-agriculture-supply-chains.htm>)
 - iii. Guide providing practical support for businesses to understand and implement due diligence (<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/duediligence/>)

In practice, establishing the legality of timber according to domestic regulations is not a trivial matter. In an extreme case, there could be 800 forest-related laws, regulations and decrees such that ensuring compliance with all domestic and local laws may be complex and tasking.¹¹ Hence, there is a need to have a clear understanding to recognise and identify the laws that are essential to legality assurance.

¹¹ Brown, D., Schreckenber, K., Bird, N., Cerutti, P., Gato, F., Diaw, C., Fomété, T., Luttrell, C., Navarro, G., Oberdorf, R., Thiel, H., and Wells, A. (2008). Legal Timber. Verification and Governance in the Forest Sector. London: Overseas Development Institute.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The project identified a range of existing relevant resources, tools and materials that can assist in the trade of legal forest products with the aim of providing an easy to understand compendium of resources for operators to navigate economies' legal frameworks and help determine legality. This project was conducted in three stages:

- i) Identification of existing resources
- ii) Review to determine the suitability of these resources
- iii) Organisation into an easy to understand compendium

The identification of existing resources was conducted with a wide scope to identify any resources that can assist with the trade of legal forest products within the APEC region. This included relevant legislation, risk assessments, compendiums, infographics, guides and search tools that link timber businesses with the information that best meets their needs in conducting their business activities. This was done with a focus on tools that would help private sector operators specifically within the APEC region but also included information from outside the region due to the wide nature of these resources.

Once all the relevant resources were identified, a review was carried out to determine the suitability of the resources in the following key areas: 1) **methodology**;¹² 2) **relevance** to timber operators within the APEC region; 3) **clarity** of information; and 4) **timeliness** in updating and maintaining information. This review was undertaken with input from relevant stakeholders including providers of the respective resources through a survey and EGILAT members. Upon assessing the relevance of the resource in facilitating legal timber trade, a compendium was developed.

The survey was sent out to 28 resources' owners (some resource owners may have more than one relevant resource) to gather information that would help assess the resource based on the four key areas; 24 responses were received. The resources that were not supplemented by a survey submission were not included in the compendium.

V. COMPENDIUM OF RESOURCES

The final compendium of resources that can facilitate the trade and distribution of legal timber is organised by resource type (legislation, risk assessment, due diligence toolkits and others) and resource provider (government, international organisations, and NGOs, civil society organisations and research institutes). The information provided in the resource summary tables is gathered and summarised from the survey and publicly available information as well as feedback from EGILAT members.

¹² In this context a 'robust methodology' refers to information gathered from sources such as: government agencies, international government organisations, 3rd party certification bodies and internationally recognised non-government bodies that have used an impartial, defined and transparent method of assessing the risk of illegality.

Compilation of Economies' Timber Legislations

i) Government

A. APEC Timber Legality Guidance Documents

Resource Type	Collection of timber legislations/regulations guidance documents of APEC economies
Target Audience	Business communities interested and/or engaged in the timber trade, governments and civil groups
Location/Address	https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Illegal-Logging-and-Associated-Trade
Owner/Maintainer	APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	A total of 10 timber legality guidance documents have been completed and published at the time of writing. The 10 APEC economies are Australia; Chile; China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Chinese Taipei; and the United States. The number of guidance documents will increase as APEC economies continue to develop and publish new documents.
Year of Establishment	EGILAT initially agreed to develop the guidance documents at its 8 th meeting in Cebu, the Philippines in August 2015. The first guidance documents were published in mid-2018.
Maintained/Updated	Yes. At the time of this review, most of the documents were under 3 years old and have not been reviewed or updated but moving forward, EGILAT will lead regular work to be undertaken to review and update existing documents to ensure their continued relevance and accuracy.
Objective of Resource	The collection of timber legality guidance documents developed by EGILAT members seek to provide clarity and transparency for businesses, governments and civil groups on what constitutes legally harvested timber, and the types of licenses, permits and certification schemes required within specific APEC economies.
Summary of Resource <i>The contents of each legality guidance document include forestry legality arrangements as well as timber legislations or regulations relevant to each economy</i>	<p>The APEC Timber Legality Guidance Documents is a collection of individual timber legality guidance documents provided by APEC member economies.</p> <p>The contents of each timber legality guidance document include forestry legality arrangements as well as timber legislations or regulations relevant to each economy.</p> <p>Across all the documents, the following sections of information are provided subject to circumstances where certain elements may not be relevant to a particular economy: general information on the economy's forestry and timber industry; information on how timber harvesting is regulated in the economy; existing laws, regulations and institutional arrangements in the economy relating to timber legality; ways to identify legally harvested products or demonstrate the legality of timber from the economy; ways to demonstrate the legality of timber products manufactured in the economy; contact information; and supplementary attachments of sample documents for illustration.</p> <p>Recognising that timber products from an economy may use timber from numerous jurisdictions in their manufacturing process, information relating</p>

	to assurance systems or arrangements to trace timber supply chains are provided where applicable to assure timber operators that the complex products they are sourcing contain timber with a low risk of having been illegally logged.
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B. Country Specific Guidelines (CSGs) by Australia’s Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Resource Type	Consolidation of detailed information used in the associated jurisdiction to regulate timber harvesting. These include domestic forest management arrangements, relevant laws and regulations, legal framework used to regulate timber harvesting, and methods to identify legal timber for each covered economy
Target Audience	Importers of timber products from the jurisdictions covered by the existing Country Specific Guideline documents
Location/Address	https://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/importers/resources#country-specific-guidelines
Owner/Maintainer	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of Australia
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	10 economies – Canada; Chile; Korea; Indonesia; Italy; Finland; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; and the Solomon Islands
Year of Establishment	The first Country Specific Guideline was published in 2014. A list of the publication date of each Country Specific Guideline is provided in Schedule 2 of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012.
Maintained/Updated	Yes, regular three-year reviews are conducted. The Australian Government continues to negotiate new Country Specific Guidelines and also revise existing Country Specific Guidelines to ensure their continued relevance and accuracy.
Objective of Resource	To assist importers to be better informed when conducting their due diligence, and to better understand what legal timber looks like in the associated jurisdiction.
Summary of Resource <i>CSGs provide information about the legal frameworks that regulate the harvesting, processing, and trade in timber in a particular economy</i> <i>Examples of key documents/certificates and a Quick Reference Guide included</i>	<p>The Country Specific Guidelines (CSGs) developed by the Australian Government are intended to help Australian importers satisfy their illegal logging due diligence obligations set out in the <i>Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012</i> and <i>Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012</i>.</p> <p>CSGs assist importers by providing information about the legal frameworks that regulate the harvesting, processing, and trade in timber in a particular economy. They explain the key legality frameworks in place in that economy, relevant government agencies, any bans or limitations on harvesting, transport controls (if relevant), and where available, provide examples of key documents/certificates that can be used as evidence to support timber legality. The exact content varies across the respective CSGs, reflecting the variety of domestic approaches in regulating the harvest and production of timber.</p> <p>Each CSG is also accompanied by a Quick Reference Guide, which provides a high-level overview of the CSG’s content.</p> <p>The CSGs are developed in collaboration with associated Governments to ensure the accuracy of their content. As of 1 June 2020, the Australian Government had published 10 CSGs and continues to develop and publish new CSGs.</p>

C. Clean Wood Navi of Japan

Resource Type	Compilation of information on Japan's Clean Wood Act, an overview of timber distribution within economies as well as economy laws and regulations on legal logging, and trade of wood with Japan
Target Audience	Wood-related business entities
Location/Address	http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/index.html http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/english/english-index.html
Owner/Maintainer	Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Language	Japanese, partly in English
Geographic Coverage	The resource focuses on the economies or regions exporting wood to Japan. Around 30 economy profiles are now available on the website.
Year of Establishment	2017
Maintained/Updated	Yes, a survey is sent out to relevant economies or regions as needed
Objective of Resource	To contribute to securing the use of legally harvested wood and wood products by wood-related business entities
Summary of Resource <i>Economy profiles help business entities check the legality of wood products</i>	<p>The resource is established according to the Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products (the Clean Wood Act) to promote the use and distribution of legally harvested wood in Japan.</p> <p>To support business entities in properly conducting legality checks, Japan provides reference materials on the web. The Japanese Forestry Agency conducts research on laws, systems and timber distribution in Japan's trading partner economies and uploads the acquired information to the website "Clean Wood Navi". On the economy pages of the Clean Wood Navi, there is information (only in Japanese) on timber distribution, the laws on logging, and timber trade for major timber trading economies with Japan.</p> <p>Information on, inter alia, the criteria for legal harvest as well as examples of possible documents to certify legal compliance with harvesting, processing and trading of each economy are provided.</p>

D. EU Timber Regulation Country Overviews

Resource Type	Economy reports providing main timber species in trade, trade statistics, key risks for illegality, relevant domestic legislation and other information relevant to due diligence
Target Audience	Timber operators and Competent Authorities
Location/Address	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm#products
Owner/Maintainer	The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on behalf of the European Commission
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brazil; Cameroon; China; Cote d'Ivoire; Malaysia; Myanmar; Republic of Congo; Russian Federation; and Ukraine
Year of Establishment	2018-2020
Maintained/Updated	Yes. The Country Overviews have been subject to external peer review and are updated periodically based on publicly available information and developments in respective economies.
Objective of Resource	To halt illegal logging, that is, logging in contravention of the applicable legislation in the economy of harvest
Summary of Resource	In each Economy Overview, information is provided on, main timber species in trade, CITES-listed timber species, rankings in global freedom

<i>Information on forest status, timber trade statistics, risk of illegality and relevant domestic legislation</i>	<p>and stability indices, breakdown of legal trade flows, key risks for illegality, relevant legislation and policy, as well as legally required documents such as for harvesting, transporting, processing and export to fulfil the due diligence requirement.</p> <p>Information relating to handling the risk of involving illegal timber in product supply chains; transparency in concession rights, tax payments, volume of logs extracted and forest management plans; checking of sawmills; and contact points to the relevant authorities are deemed to be particularly relevant to help timber operators determine timber legality of the forest products they trade.</p>
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ii) International Organisations

E. Forest Legality Initiative Risk Information Tool

Resource Type	Compilation of relevant information of economies, such as forest sector legal framework, as well as forest sector institutions and risk information, for timber importers to conduct economy-level due diligence and risk assessment
Target Audience	Private sector actors primarily, such as importers of timber products who need accurate information to conduct due care or due diligence on their forest produce supply chains, as well as researchers and users in government agencies, NGOs and civil society
Location/Address	https://forestlegality.org/risk-tool/
Owner/Maintainer	The tool is owed and maintained by the World Resources Institute's (WRI) Forest Legality Initiative (FLI). The Risk Information Tool was launched by WRI and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) in 2010, as part of the Forest Legality Alliance, which was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	28 economy profiles, including Chile; China; Indonesia; Malaysia; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Peru; and Viet Nam. When the tool was first created, the list of economies featured was chosen based on importance for the timber trade.
Year of Establishment	2010
Maintained/Updated	Has not been updated recently as funding ended in 2016. However, new funding was attained in 2020 and the owner is designing a long-term maintenance strategy that will allow information to be updated in the most cost-effective way. At present, the long-term plan is yet to be implemented and some resources may be out of date. The resource holders intend to have the updates ready by Q4 2021.
Objective of Resource	To support due diligence and economy-level risk assessment for the timber trade, particularly for imports to economies that have a mandatory due diligence or due care provision for timber
Summary of Resource	<p>The Risk Information Tool, a project of the World Resources Institute, is designed to help users ask informed questions during the process of conducting due care or due diligence on their forest product supply chains e.g. where their forest products come from; issues a buyer might encounter etc. The tool aims to provide helpful information in one place and serve as a portal to useful tools developed by other organisations.</p> <p>The resource aims to:</p>
<i>Economy profiles provide information on the forest estate and forestry sector, the domestic laws and policies, international law and local contacts</i>	

<p><i>Provides guides to help conduct due diligence and engage in legal logging</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull together all relevant legislation and regulation in source economies; • Provide contact information for local authorities, business associations, and civil society groups that may be able to assist in conducting due care or due diligence or answer specific questions; and • Explain some of the most commonly encountered legality policies. <p>Information about forest products and legality is presented by economy. The economy profiles provide information on the forest estate and forestry sector, the relevant domestic laws and policies, the relevant international law as it applies in the individual economy, and local contacts who can serve as further sources of information.</p> <p>Other resources from WRI’s Forest Legality Initiative include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sourcing Legally Produced Wood – A Guide for Businesses This resource provides information on illegal logging and associated trade, public and private procurement policies, export economy logging and log export bans, and an introductory guidance to the wood products legality legislation in the United States, the EU, and Australia. 2. Logging and Export Bans Compilation Provides a list of export bans, the product scope that the export ban covers, the status of the ban, and the source of the information.
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F. TimberLex

Resource Type	Database providing laws, regulations, policies, international commitments and other relevant legal instruments relevant to forest management, timber production and trade
Target Audience	TimberLex aims to serve: (i) Government officers such as legislators, policymakers, forestry department officers and law enforcement officers who are mandated to play a role along the timber value chain; (ii) Private sector producers and traders in timber producing and consuming economies; and (iii) Civil society and non-governmental organizations that will benefit from enhanced knowledge and capacity around timber-related legislation.
Location/Address	http://www.fao.org/faolex/timberlex/
Owner/Maintainer	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
Language	English, French and Spanish
Geographic Coverage	Includes up to 50 profiles of major timber-trading economies across regions
Year of Establishment	July 2021
Maintained/Updated	Yes, regular checks and updates will be conducted
Objective of Resource	To increase global legal timber production and trade through enhancing knowledge of domestic legal frameworks governing forestry and timber value-chains
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Economy profiles are structured around a common format consisting of a set of 31 Guiding Legal Elements</i></p>	<p>TimberLex is a database of laws, regulations, policies, international commitments and other relevant legal instruments relevant to forest management, timber production and trade.</p> <p>The economy profiles are structured around a common format consisting of a set of 31 Guiding Legal Elements (GLEs) for timber legality, which are agreed common elements to create frameworks for timber legality and</p>

<i>(GLEs) for timber legality</i>	<p>facilitate the assessment undertaken by timber importers as part of their due diligence.</p> <p>Each economy page consists of a description of the economy’s existing legal and regulatory instruments related to forest management, timber production and trade, including a list of legal documents corresponding to each GLE and verbatim citations of specific measures applicable to any particular Element.</p>
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iii) NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Research Institutes

G. Client Earth’s Forest Logbook

Resource Type	Collection of legal information on forest legality such as legal resources, relevant legislation, impartial briefings and enforcement cases across timber import and export economies
Target Audience	Companies trading timber products, NGOs and public authorities
Location/Address	https://logbook.clientearth.org/
Owner/Maintainer	ClientEarth
Language	English, but also provides access to laws in the original language of the economy of application
Geographic Coverage	Global scope with economy profiles for both timber import and export economies
Year of Establishment	February 2019
Maintained/Updated	Yes, on an ongoing basis with new pieces of legislation, enforcement cases, and impartial briefings.
Objective of Resource	To centralise the abundance of online resources on forest legality into one platform; and provide access to essential legal information for operators conducting their due diligence, NGOs monitoring companies’ practices and public authorities conducting checks
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Links to other resources, providing information on forest governance and on measures that impact the trade of forest risk commodities</i></p>	<p>Client Earth’s online hub, the Forest Logbook, aims to help users - from importers to logging operators - access laws and legal information to better understand legal requirements when conducting their due diligence.</p> <p>It links to resources gathered and published by organisations and public institutions, providing information on forest governance and on measures that impact the trade of forest risk commodities. Where available, official texts are included.</p> <p>On each economy page, information is presented in categories such as government contact details, legislation, legal briefings, resources, enforcement cases and advice where available.</p> <p>ClientEarth currently focuses on resources related to timber legality but plans to include more information on non-timber forest-risk commodities, such as palm oil and soy in the future. Resources are selected by ClientEarth based on their impartiality or their official status.</p>

H. TRAFFIC WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network and TRAFFIC Common Framework for Assessing Legality of Forestry Operations, Timber Processing and Trade (Common Legality Framework)

Resource Type	Timber legality assessment framework comprising principles, criteria and indicators as well as guidance notes and verifiers for economies
Target Audience	Business community from the forests to anywhere along the supply chain; indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs); general public; government agencies – forestry, transport, revenue, industry, customs, protected areas, etc.; NGOs; certification schemes; and certification auditors
Location/Address	https://forestsforward.panda.org/?202483/Framework-for-Assessing-Legality-of-Forestry-Operations-Timber-Processing-and-Trade#:~:text=The%20GFTN%20and%20TRAFFIC%20framework,trade%20through%20encouraging%20compliance%20with
Owner/Maintainer	WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network and TRAFFIC
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	The resource is generic and can be used by any economy. National Legality Frameworks compiled using the Common Legality Framework are available for Brazil; Cameroon; Central African Republic; China; Democratic Republic of Congo; Republic of Congo; Gabon; India; Indonesia; Lao DPR; Malaysia; Myanmar; Peru; Russia; Viet Nam; and Colombia.
Year of Establishment	2009
Maintained/Updated	Laws and regulations provided in the National Legality Frameworks are intended to be updated when there are changes. While the Common Legality Framework does not currently require updating, there are several economy frameworks for Assessing the legality of forestry operations, Timber Processing and Trade that require an update.
Objective of Resource	<p>The objectives of this resource are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Support economies to compile their legislation in a coherent and consistent framework that can be used by any audience for their own purposes; (2) Provide a subset of forest-focused laws for enforcement across agencies, adherence by supply chains, and awareness-raising for target audiences; (3) Help domestic and international regulators understand what is legal to enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels; (4) Provide a tool covering the whole supply chain for auditors, private sector, government agencies especially customs, for verification; and (5) Support the development of a more consistent legality framework in the forestry sector.
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Encompasses nine broad legal principles covering the entire supply chain</i></p> <p><i>Helps to guide due diligence and identify gaps in forest legislation and control measures</i></p>	<p>The Common Framework for Assessing Legality of Forestry Operations (Common Legality Framework) is a comprehensive checklist developed by WWF/GFTN and TRAFFIC. It encompasses the legal requirements covering the entire supply chain including forestry operations and corresponding processing and timber trade relating to timber origin, production, transportation, processing and trade, and legislation safeguarding agreed standards in relation to environmental, conservation and social issues.</p> <p>The Common Legality Framework is composed of a set of principles, each supported by one or more criteria. Each criterion represents an important aspect that allows the assessment of a legal principle. The Common Legality Framework comprises nine broad legal principles, encompassing the legal requirements covering the entire supply chain including forestry operations and corresponding processing and timber trade relating to timber origin,</p>

<p><i>Criteria are further supported by appropriate domestic indicators and guidance notes or verifiers</i></p>	<p>production, transportation, processing and trade, and legislation safeguarding agreed standards in relation to environmental, conservation and social issues.</p> <p>The Framework can be used to guide due diligence activities and to assess the timber legality frameworks of an economy. GFTN-TRAFFIC also use the Framework to identify gaps and shortcomings in forest legislation and control measures for timber harvest and trade.</p> <p>At the time of this review, TRAFFIC has compiled the legislation for more than 16 economies. When developed for use within a domestic context, the criteria are further supported by appropriate domestic indicators and guidance notes or verifiers specific to that economy based on the existing legislative base, which are practical, easily implemented on the ground and readily audited. Local indicators, verifiers and guidance developed for the framework to be used within respective domestic contexts will vary between economies relative to the legislation in place. The format of principles, criteria and domestic indicators is a format that is widely used within forest certification and accepted by civil society, industry and government.</p> <p>As legality is based on the laws and regulations of an economy, including relevant departmental administrative circulars and contractual obligations, indicators and verifiers are linked to specific regulations. Guidance notes and verifiers to assist auditors and companies in assessing compliance are provided together with relevant regulations where possible. The domestic framework is a living document and will need to be updated regularly and reviewed at least annually to account for changes to the regulatory framework.</p>
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I. RIFPI/EFI's Common Information Window for China Timber Legality¹³

Resource Type	Collection of legal information and laws on wood legality such as legal resources, relevant legislation, news and progress in China and other key partner economies
Target Audience	Representatives of industry, government and NGOs, as well as the general public, in the EU and beyond.
Location/Address	http://en.woodlegality.net/ http://www.woodlegality.net/
Owner/Maintainer	Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RIPFI, CAF)
Language	Chinese and English
Geographic Coverage	Global scope
Year of Establishment	November 2015
Maintained/Updated	Yes. New pieces of legislation, news and events are updated if there are changes.
Objective of Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the access of Chinese stakeholders, especially the industry, to on-time, transparent and credible information on EU FLEGT, EUTR and other new market requirements like the US Lacey Act amendment, the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and other initiatives; Facilitating information sharing on EU FLEGT, EUTR and other new market requirements through a number of formats and channels

¹³ This information is provided by China's representative from EGILAT.

	<p>including website, print media and other channels particularly targeted at Chinese furniture, plywood and wooden flooring industries; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information access to SMEs in the furniture, wood flooring, plywood sector about new market requirements including EUTR.
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Online platform providing information on China's forestry legislation and policy framework</i></p>	<p>As the implementing parties of the EU-China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism (BCM) on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the European Forest Institute's EU FLEGT Facility have built an online platform called the Common Information Window.</p> <p>The website shares information about the EU Timber Regulation, the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, global timber legality developments, FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements between the EU and timber-exporting economies, and timber legality developments in China.</p> <p>The English section of the Common Information Window is for representatives of industry, government and NGOs, as well as the general public, in the EU and beyond. It provides information on China's forestry legislation and policy framework, as well as updates on the Chinese Timber Legality Verification System (CTLVS) and Chinese forest certification developments.</p>

Database of Economies' Risk Assessment and Forest Policy Assessment

i) Government

NIL

ii) International Organisations

J. Forest Governance and Legality by Chatham House

Resource Type	Compilation of information on economies' forest resources, forest sector international trade data including assessment of the level of illegality, assessment of economies' institutional and policy frameworks for forest governance and their implementation, as well as analysis of forest governance reforms and the timber trade
Target Audience	Policymakers, academics, advocacy organisations and the media
Location/Address	https://forestgovernance.chathamhouse.org/
Owner/Maintainer	Chatham House
Language	English (with a few articles in other languages – French and Portuguese to date)
Geographic Coverage	19 economies across Africa (Cameroon; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ghana; the Republic of Congo), the Americas (Brazil; the United States), the Asia-Pacific (China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Lao PDR; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea; Thailand; Viet Nam) and Europe (France; Netherlands; United Kingdom) – 9 tropical forest economies and 10 economies that are processors and consumers of tropical timber, all of which have been the focus of a long-running research programme by Chatham House.
Year of Establishment	March 2020

Maintained/Updated	Yes. New articles or reports are published every 1 or 2 months. New data and analysis on policy frameworks and legality is conducted every 3 to 5 years.
Objective of Resource	To improve understanding of forest sector reform efforts and their impact on forest sector governance and trade
Summary of Resource <i>Economy pages provide an overview of the forestry sector and a regularly updated list of news articles and reports</i> <i>Provides assessments of government's response to illegal logging</i>	<p>Hosted and maintained by Chatham House, the website provides information on illegal logging and the trade in illegal timber in 19 economies. It provides an overview of some of the key issues and developments and includes a searchable database of documents and news items from around the world. The economy pages provide a brief overview of the forestry sector, followed by a regularly updated list of news articles, reports, and other related content.</p> <p>Assessments are undertaken to evaluate governments' response to illegal logging and the related trade under 3 criteria: if the policy exists (0-2); how well designed it is (0-5); and how well implemented it is (0-5). For tropical forest economies, the policy assessment is divided into five broad categories: legal and institutional framework; tenure and resource allocation; regulating demand; transparency; and rule of law. For economies that are consumers or processors of tropical timber, the policy assessment covers three broad categories: legal and institutional framework; regulating demand; and rule of law. The assessment results are available for three years: 2008, 2013 and 2018.</p> <p>Timber trade data was compiled and used to estimate the exports and imports of illegal wood-based products between the 19 economies and other major trade partners. The proportion of illegality in an economy's exports was derived from estimating a baseline level of illegal exports for the given economy.</p>

K. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Risk Assessments

Resource Type	Collection of economy risk assessments
Target Audience	Business community comprising FSC certificate holders who want to make FSC Mix products or sell FSC Controlled Wood; and auditors such as FSC accredited certification bodies
Location/Address	https://fsc.org/en/fsc-risk-assessment-platform
Owner/Maintainer	Forest Stewardship Council
Language	English (and occasionally Spanish)
Geographic Coverage	The FSC Centralised National Risk Assessments are available for 60 economies around the world: High coverage: Europe, North America, South America Medium coverage: Asia-Pacific Low coverage: Africa
Year of Establishment	2016-2019
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Over the 60 FSC risk assessments, there are on average 2-5 updates made per year.
Objective of Resource	To identify which economies have risks associated with (1) illegally harvested wood; (2) wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights (e.g. forced or child labour); (3) wood harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities; (4) wood harvested in forests converted to plantations or non-forest use; and (5) wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Provides detailed risk assessment of illegality relating to five areas of concern</i></p>	<p>FSC provides individual economy reports on controlled wood risk assessment. The risk assessments assess risks relating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Illegally harvested wood; (2) Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights (for example, forced or child labour); (3) Wood harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities; (4) Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use; and (5) Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted. <p>Each of the FSC Centralised National Risk Assessments (CNRA) and National Risk Assessments (NRA) for the respective economies include a section on each “Controlled wood category”, which covers sources of legal timber in the economy and a detailed risk assessment of illegality comprising information such as applicable laws and regulations, domestic legal authorities, legally required documents or records as well as FSC’s risk designation and determination of illegal timber for the economy.</p> <p>Information relating to the risk designation is deemed to be particularly relevant for timber operators as it represents a synthesis of many sources (first-hand and third-hand, publicly available and private) to assess the likelihood of illegality and was subject to extensive deliberation and scrutiny from experts and non-experts.</p>
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iii) NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Research Institutes

L. Global Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Risk Assessment Tool (ILAT Risk)

Resource Type	Compilation of economies’ timber trade data and risk profiles
Target Audience	Primarily the business community including timber importers, as well as enforcement and policy officials
Location/Address	https://www.forest-trends.org/fptf-ilat-home/
Owner/Maintainer	Forest Trends, which is funded by the United States Department of State
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Global coverage featuring 211 economies
Year of Establishment	2020.
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Updates are made at least one to two times per year.
Objective of Resource	To fill the information gap relating to consistent global data on timber trade flows, including flows of illegal timber, which are non-existent or hard to access, so as to alleviate the challenges faced by private sector operators who want to assess the risk of illegal timber entering their supply chains as well as government agencies that are enforcing the growing number of domestic regulations designed to exclude illegal timber imports
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Provides risk assessment tool using publicly available trade data and indicators of domestic governance risk</i></p>	<p>The ILAT Risk tool allows users to better understand risk in global timber supply chains using publicly available trade data and indicators of domestic governance risk for 211 economies. It is designed to facilitate the very initial stages of a risk assessment. Users will have access to global timber trade data and the risk assessment tool that will help raise flags on the risk of illegal timber entering a supply chain.</p> <p>The tool provides:</p>

<p><i>Includes general visualisations, displaying the value of trade and forest product and trade relations with low-risk economies</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global trade data: data that can be used to identify, quantify and categorise flows of timber between producer, processor and consumer economies 2. ILAT Risk: key indicators to measure the risk of illegal timber. The analysis only offers insight for the initial stages of risk assessment by providing an indication of relative risk levels based on existing indices of governance, corruption, political and harvest risk. <p>The tool contains six tabs. The first three tabs – Country Analysis, Region Analysis, and Product Analysis – provide general visualisations, displaying the value of trade by economy, region and forest product respectively. The remaining three tabs – Exports to Regulated Markets, Import Risk Analysis, and Imports from LEB/SEB Markets – display the scale of trade with the growing number of economies that have enacted timber import measures designed to exclude illegal timber from entering their markets, the scale of imports based on source economy risk, and the scale of logs and sawn wood sourced from economies that have active legislation restricting such exports respectively.</p> <p>Designed to facilitate the very initial stages of a risk assessment, the ILAT Risk Data Tool provides the necessary flexibility for multiple uses given that users seek to comply with a range of regulatory requirements and voluntary commitments.</p>
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M. Preferred by Nature Sourcing Hub

Resource Type	Compilation of economies' legality risk assessments
Target Audience	Timber business community (main target audience), governments, authorities, NGOs, research organisations, and other stakeholders looking for due diligence tools and economy-specific guidance
Location/Address	https://preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub
Owner/Maintainer	Preferred by Nature (formerly known as NEPCon)
Language	Primarily in English, but some tools can be translated
Geographic Coverage	Risk assessments cover 65 economies
Year of Establishment	2017
Maintained/Updated	Yes, planned updates are made every 5 years or when there are changes in legislations or risk assessments
Objective of Resource	To provide knowledge and guidance to companies to apply due diligence; and to share knowledge with NGOs, research organisations and governments
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Risk assessments provide an overview of legal requirements, associated risks and suggested mitigation measures based on 21 indicators of law related to 5 categories of law</i></p>	<p>The risk assessments provide an overview of legal requirements, associated risks and suggested mitigation measures to address these risks. Each economy's timber legality risk assessment systematically evaluates 21 indicators of law related to 5 categories of law: (1) legal right to harvest; (2) taxes and fees; (3) timber harvesting activities; (4) third parties' rights; and (5) trade and transport. For some risk assessments, the scope has been expanded to cover processing and supply chain risks as well. The indicators evaluated are in conformance with the legal categories defined under the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). For each indicator, the following are listed and/or evaluated: applicable laws and regulations; legal authority; legally required documents; sources of information; description of legal requirements; description of risk; risk conclusion; control measures and verifiers (if applicable).</p>

<p><i>Provides several guides on timber testing techniques, recognising fake or forged documents and CITES</i></p>	<p>Each economy is given a Timber Risk Score, which is based on Preferred by Nature’s assessment of the risk of illegality occurring in 21 areas of law relevant to timber legality. In each economy’s comprehensive legality risk assessment report, there is an overview of the economy’s legality risks, its forest sector, and a detailed breakdown of its legality risk assessment for each of the 21 sub-categories under the 5 main categories of law. Suggested mitigation actions are provided, where possible, for each indicator in which risk is identified. Developed document guides and risk mitigation guides with additional information for some economies are available as well.</p> <p>Some additional resources provided by Preferred by Nature include the following guides:</p> <p>(1) NEPCON Thematic Article No 1: Timber Testing Techniques This Thematic Article provides an overview of the dominant scientific tests being used by industry to test for the nature and source of timber products. It also outlines how businesses can potentially use such techniques to identify and control risks in their supply chains.</p> <p>(2) NEPCON Thematic Article No 2: Fake documents This Thematic Article provides businesses with some useful hints and tips for how to spot fake or forged documents.</p> <p>(3) NEPCON Thematic Article No 3: A Practical Guide to CITES This Thematic Article provides a useful description of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This includes how it works, what timber species are covered by CITES, permitting systems and examples of CITES documents.</p>
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Other Databases to support Risk Assessments

i) Government

NIL

ii) International Organisations

N. Global Forest Watch

Resource Type	An online platform providing real-time information, data and tools for monitoring forests globally
Target Audience	Government agencies, civil society organisations and the business community
Location/Address	https://www.globalforestwatch.org
Owner/Maintainer	World Resources Institute
Language	English, Chinese, French, Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese and Spanish
Geographic Coverage	Global. Global Forest Watch (GFW) is a global forest monitoring platform. GFW near-real-time deforestation alerts are available for Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Malaysia; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Viet Nam, as well as parts of Australia; Chile; China; and the United States.
Year of Establishment	2014
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Frequent updates are made in the key deforestation systems – annual tree cover loss is updated yearly, GLAD alerts are updated weekly, RADD

	alerts are updated bi-weekly, and fire alerts are updated daily. Updates are also made or being made to the monitoring methodologies, such as the annual tree cover loss methodology and the GLAD alerts methodology, to reduce false positives and overcome cloud coverage limitations.
Objective of Resource	To offer a suite of forest monitoring tools designed to increase knowledge and transparency about forest landscapes, harness information to mobilise local action by governments and civil society, and advance private sector action to manage forests sustainably and stop commodity-driven deforestation
Summary of Resource <i>Dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system that uses satellite technology, open data and crowdsourcing to monitor forest change globally</i>	<p>Global Forest Watch (GFW) is a dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system that uses satellite technology, open data and crowdsourcing to provide data to monitor forest change globally. GFW's economy pages offer analysis on domestic-level forest cover change in addition to forest-related information, land tenure, carbon stocks, and more.</p> <p>The following are the available data sets that can be overlaid and compared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest change data such as global tree cover loss, deforestation alerts and gain data amongst others • Forest cover data, including global tree cover data amongst others • Forest fire data • Forest use data, including concession areas for natural resource extraction or agricultural production • Conservation data such as global boundaries for protected areas and biodiversity hotspots • People data, including community land boundaries and land tenure rights (to be available) <p>GFW near-real-time forest monitoring data (e.g. GLAD, GLAD-S2 and RADD alerts) and tools can be used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government agencies - to identify and prioritize law enforcement actions. - Civil society organizations - to independently monitor the sector. - Business community - to assess and manage the risk of illegal timber in their supply chains, support forest resources management, and document law compliance. <p>Users need to analyse the monitoring data vis-à-vis other geospatial data such as boundaries of forest concessions as well as documentary information such as forest management plans to determine the legality of forest products.</p> <p>Foreign ministries of some African economies are maintaining their Forest Atlas sites containing contextual information to provide a more comprehensive understanding on whether tree cover loss is occurring in a protected area or in a pattern inconsistent with sustainable forest management.</p>

O. Open Timber Portal

Resource Type	Compilation of information about forest operations from government agencies, logging companies and third-party organisations
Target Audience	Timber companies, government agencies, timber buyers across the supply chain, enforcement agencies, third-party forest monitors, civil society organisations and NGOs, donors supporting improved forest sector legality
Location/Address	https://www.opentimberportal.org
Owner/Maintainer	World Resources Institute (WRI)

Language	English, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese
Geographic Coverage	Currently focuses on the Congo Basin, covering several African economies including the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Republic of the Congo; Cameroon; Gabon; and the Central African Republic
Year of Establishment	2019
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Updates are made on an ongoing basis whenever relevant. New documents and observations are uploaded on a daily basis. Economy-specific lists of documents are updated as the legislation and VPA legality grids evolve.
Objective of Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring transparency to timber operations by making public previously inaccessible information about on-the-ground management practices and compliance with timber legality requirements. • To support compliance with due diligence requirements • To support the enforcement of demand-side policies such as the Korea Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers, the Japan Clean Wood Act, the Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, the EU Timber Regulation, and the U.S Lacey Act
Summary of Resource <i>Compiles comprehensive economy-specific information on official concession boundaries; list of registered timber producers; documents on forest management, harvest and trade to demonstrate compliance; and observations of suspected noncompliance.</i>	<p>The Open Timber Portal (OTP) platform aims to improve access to comprehensive economy-specific information about forest management and harvesting and increase the effectiveness of regulations on illegal logging, such as the U.S. Lacey Act, Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, Korea Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers, Japan Clean Wood Act, and EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).</p> <p>The OTP ranks companies based on their transparency, which helps importers assess how transparent the company is, and therefore how quick and easy it will be to get the necessary information to assess legality.</p> <p>The portal includes assessments from independent Forest Monitors. The economy-specific lists of documents that logging companies are invited to share on the portal help importers know which key documents to review. The OTP also helps track the expiry date of each document.</p> <p>The OTP compiles information from three different sources: official concession boundaries and the list of registered timber producers from the government; documents on forest management, harvest and trade uploaded voluntarily by timber producers to demonstrate compliance; and observations of suspected noncompliance provided by third-party forest monitors. The list of documents to be published by operators is specific to each economy and established based on the legality grid developed by domestic actors as part of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process between the producer economy and the European Union.</p> <p>The OTP is built for the following 7 groups of users:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Timber companies concerned about their reputation and market access (2) Government agencies in producer economies (3) Timber buyers across the supply chain (4) Enforcement agencies in importing economies (5) Third-party forest monitors in producer economies (6) Civil society organisations and NGOs (7) Donors supporting improved forest sector legality

P. Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) Reference Database

Resource Type	Database on data, standards and protocols relating to wood identification
Target Audience	Wood identification laboratories, specialists, and scientists – information in the resource is aimed not at timber operators but those helping operators with their due diligence implementation and those enforcing timber legality legislation
Location/Address	https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/products/reference-database/
Owner/Maintainer	The Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN)
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Any economy that chooses to cooperate and describe and/or share data through the system
Year of Establishment	2020
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Service providers, which are the participating laboratories, are reminded to keep their institutional records up-to-date yearly.
Objective of Resource	To increase cost efficiency and effectiveness of wood identification reference data development
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Tool for species identification and for determining the geographic origin of wood to verify trade claims</i></p> <p><i>Provides several guides to support wood identification</i></p>	<p>The Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) promotes the operationalisation of innovative tools for species identification and determination of the geographic origin of wood to verify trade claims.</p> <p>The GTTN reference database is developed for wood identification experts to find and share information on wood samples and reference data that have been created thus far for any wood identification method to facilitate access to expertise and meet customer-driven demand. The minimum requirement for participating laboratories is to share metadata, which describe the tree species, geographical origin, and laboratory method. Such information will be visible to all participating laboratories. Participating laboratories are encouraged to share vouchered physical wood samples or even reference data. The metadata shared in this database are also used in the background to increase the relevance of wood identification service customer queries through the GTTN Service Provider Directory. The reference database could over time evolve into a timber legality assessment mechanism in general.</p> <p>The reference database system is hosted on highly secure servers to conform to medical data storage standards.</p> <p>GTTN provides some useful guides to support wood identification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of current practices in data analysis for wood identification. A guide for the different timber tracking methods: https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/portfolios/wood-id-data-analysis-guide/ 2. Scientific methods for taxonomic and origin identification of timber: https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/portfolios/users-guide-to-wood-id-scientific-methods/ 3. General sampling guide for timber tracking. How to collect reference samples for timber identification: https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/2019/02/07/new-gttn-sampling-guide/

Q. Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Find Certified Database

Resource Type	Search database for certification information such as certified operators and certification bodies
Target Audience	The general public and companies active in the trading and/or processing of forest resources
Location/Address	https://www.pefc.org/find-certified
Owner/Maintainer	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Global (note that most PEFC certified forest owners are located in Europe and North America)
Year of Establishment	The PEFC search engine has existed in its current form since 2014. Previous versions have existed since 2003.
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Updates are made continuously based on audit information communicated by certification bodies.
Objective of Resource	To provide an up-to-date list of PEFC certified entities and PEFC trademarks licences
Summary of Resource <i>Provides access to relevant information about certificate holders, logo and label users, certified products, accredited certification bodies, and PEFC-endorsed domestic certification systems</i>	<p>The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is an international non-profit organisation founded in 1999 that promotes the sustainable use of forest resources by developing international forest management and chain of custody standards and supporting the creation of domestic certification schemes suitable to specific environmental, social and economic contexts.</p> <p>PEFC maintains comprehensive databases to ensure easy access to relevant information about certificate holders, logo and label users, certified products, accredited certification bodies, and PEFC-endorsed domestic certification systems. PEFC's data infrastructure has a critical operational role as it is used, <i>inter alia</i>, as a backend for the public certificate search engine (Find Certified); a register of certification bodies, certified operators and products; an organisational integrity monitoring tool; and a basis for accounting.</p> <p>The PEFC certification search engine (Find Certified) provides a list of entities that are PEFC certified for forest management or chain of custody and a list of PEFC trademarks licences attributed to PEFC certified and non-certified entities. The identification of certified companies and forest owner/managers are particularly useful as they allow traders to look up potential suppliers of certified and thus legal timber. A timber legality assessment, the PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS), is integral to PEFC Chain of custody certification. All chain of custody certificates in the search engine (Find Certified Database) listed as "valid" underwent a timber legality assessment. Only non-private information about certified operators and certification bodies is open to the general public.</p>

iii) NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Research Institutes

R. SPOTT – Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit

Resource Type	Compilation of transparency assessments of tropical forest commodity producers, processors and traders on their public disclosure policies, operations and commitments to environmental, social and governance (ESG) best practice
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Target Audience	Financial institutions, downstream companies, producer companies, and other stakeholders such as civil society organisations
Location/Address	www.spott.org
Owner/Maintainer	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Language	English, some resources are also available in Chinese, French and Bahasa Indonesia.
Geographic Coverage	Tropical forest regions globally with particular emphasis on Congo Basin economies; Indonesia; Malaysia; the Mekong region; and the African timber trade with China.
Year of Establishment	2014
Maintained/Updated	Yes. SPOTT assessments are undertaken annually.
Objective of Resource	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To incentivise the implementation of corporate best practices. Investors, buyers and other key influencers can use SPOTT assessments to inform stakeholder engagement, manage ESG risk, and increase transparency across multiple industries. 2. To support constructive industry engagement by investors, ESG analysts, buyers and other supply chain stakeholders with the power to influence companies to increase disclosures and improve their practices on the ground.
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Provides ESG transparency assessments on companies</i></p> <p><i>Guides on ESG issues</i></p>	<p>The Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT) is a free online platform that publishes annual environmental, social and governance (ESG) transparency assessments of 100 timber and pulp, 100 palm oil and 15 natural rubber companies to support sustainable commodity production and trade. It assesses tropical forest commodity producers, processors and traders on their public disclosure regarding their policies, operations and commitments to ESG best practices. Companies are assessed against an in-depth, commodity-specific, indicator framework that covers 10 ESG categories and extends to over 100 indicators. SPOTT scores companies annually across the 100 sector-specific indicators to benchmark their progress over time.</p> <p>The weight applied to scoring can be modified according to user preferences. A higher score indicates that the company is being relatively transparent about its operations, policies and commitments to ESG best practices. Some SPOTT indicators also consider the quality of policies and commitments, with higher scores awarded for more comprehensive policies. Higher scores may also reflect company reporting and externally verified information on implementation. If a company receives a high score in its SPOTT assessment, it does not necessarily mean that the company is itself environmentally responsible but that it is being more transparent in its ESG reporting than other companies with a lower score.</p> <p>SPOTT also collaborates with the Open Timber Portal (OTP) to incorporate disclosures made via the OTP website within the scoring of companies that operate in economies covered by the OTP. Legality issues are also included within the indicator frameworks.</p> <p>Reports and guides relating to assessment results and ESG issues are available on the SPOTT website.</p>

Toolkit to Guide Due Diligence and Risk Assessment

i) Government

S. Australian Timber Importers Federation Legality Compliance Toolkit

Resource Type	Toolkit to guide businesses to comply with due diligence and risk assessment requirements applicable to all timber products imported into Australia
Target Audience	Import and wholesale companies importing timber products regulated under the relevant Australian legislation
Location/Address	https://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/importers/resources#industry-generated-guidance-materials
Owner/Maintainer	Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment of Australia
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Australia
Year of Establishment	November 2014
Maintained/Updated	Yes. There have been subsequent updates following the first edition of the toolkit prepared in November 2014.
Objective of Resource	To ensure that all timber products imported and subject to illegal logging legislation are manufactured from logs obtained from lawful forest harvesting activities
Summary of Resource <i>A toolkit containing sample letters, questionnaires and templates for timber product importers</i>	<p>The Legality Compliance Toolkit developed by the Australian Timber Importers Federation (ATIF) was prepared to assist timber product importers comply with the relevant illegal logging legislation, and to carry out the necessary due diligence and risk assessment applicable for timber product imports subject to the relevant legislation. The Toolkit covers all timber product imports into Australia that are subject to illegal logging legislation including the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 and Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013.</p> <p>The Toolkit contains sample letters, questionnaires and templates for timber product importers to use, notably in communications with suppliers. Recognising that the toolkit may not be able to address every imported timber product and legislation compliance situation, ATIF has established a referral and advisory service where timber importers may contact one of the three contact persons listed in Section 6 of the toolkit for additional advice.</p> <p>ATIF also assists individual companies with due diligence and related compliance activities when requested through its independent, third-party periodic audit and support service.</p> <p>An Addendum updating the main Toolkit was released in 2016. This clarifies and corrects several issues with the Toolkit, including updating some of its templates. The two documents should be used together.</p>

ii) International Organisations

NIL

iii) NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Research Institutes

T. Bolsa Verde do Rio de Janeiro (BVRIO) Due Diligence and Risk Assessment System

Resource Type	An integrated online tool for conducting due diligence of timber consignments from Brazil
Target Audience	(1) International traders of tropical timber looking to conduct due diligence and risk assessment of timber and timber products from Brazil, and (2) domestic and international civil society organisations and government agencies.
Location/Address	https://www.bvrio.com/madeira/analise/cadeiaCustodia/dashboardDueDiligence.do
Owner/Maintainer	BVRio Institute, a Brazilian organisation with a mission to develop market mechanisms to facilitate compliance with environmental laws.
Language	English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Bahasa Indonesia and Chinese.
Geographic Coverage	Covers timber consignments from Brazil but the platform serves traders internationally who seek to conduct due diligence of timber consignments from Brazil.
Year of Establishment	November 2015
Maintained/Updated	Yes. The information is automatically updated in real-time with the documentation systems of the Brazilian government.
Objective of Resource	To (1) facilitate buyers to screen out possible illegalities in a specific timber consignment; and (2) help combat illegality in the sector through demand-side pressure
Summary of Resource <i>Generates reports for individual timber consignments showing the risk level of illegality throughout the supply chain</i> <i>Includes a range of practical guides for conducting due diligence on tropical timber products</i>	<p>The Due Diligence and Risk Assessment System is an online tool for conducting due diligence of timber consignments from Brazil. Designed to facilitate compliance with legislation such as the EU Timber Regulation and the US Lacey Act, and to contribute to the FLEGT Action Plan, the system traces the supply chain of an individual timber consignment, analyses the consistency of documentation, track record of suppliers and determines a risk level (negligible, low, medium or high risk). This information enables timber operators to take further mitigating actions depending on the risk level and thereby screen out timber consignments with illegalities or irregularities.</p> <p>Using a big data approach based on information extracted from the Brazilian government's documentation system and satellite imagery, the System generates a report for individual timber consignments showing the risk level of illegality, including environmental and social regulations along the supply chain.</p> <p>The BVRIO website also includes a range of practical guides for conducting due diligence on tropical timber products (https://www.bvrio.com/plataforma/plataforma/manuais.do). This includes a general guide on sourcing from tropical timber economies, as well as more specific guides, focused on economies of supply such as Peru, Ghana and Brazil. Each guide includes information on key regulatory measures, essential documents and frequent frauds.</p>

U. TTF Due Diligence Toolkit

Resource Type	Interactive tool providing due diligence steps, due diligence basic template and timber regulations
Target Audience	Importers and exporters of timber and timber products
Location/Address	https://ttf.co.uk/download/ttf-due-diligence-toolkit/
Owner/Maintainer	Timber Trade Federation
Language	English and Chinese
Geographic Coverage	Primary focus is on the UK and EU. Secondary focus is on other economies supplying into the UK and EU.
Year of Establishment	2020
Maintained/Updated	Yes. TTF tries to make updates as and when needed.
Objective of Resource	To help (1) operators understand and demonstrate due diligence under the UKTR and the EUTR; and (2) suppliers in other economies understand the requirement of the Timber Regulation and the type of questions or documents they may be asked by their UK or EU clients
Summary of Resource <i>Interactive tool to help companies understand, conduct and report due diligence</i>	<p>The TTF Due Diligence Toolkit is an interactive tool to help companies importing and exporting timber and timber products to understand the steps required to conduct and report due diligence under the EU/UK Timber Regulation. This tool includes interactive due diligence steps and requirements, key risk factors, relevant references to assist with risk assessment and mitigation to assist operators to complete each necessary step. It also provides a due diligence summary sheet, specific economy case studies, and a library of resources and references.</p> <p>The Template is designed based on industry insight, TTF own experiences and stakeholder input from TTF members, NGOs, and UK Competent Authority.</p>

Other Useful Tools

i) Government

NIL

ii) International Organisations

V. Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) Service Providers Directory

Resource Type	Directory of laboratories providing wood identification services
Target Audience	Users of wood identification services, such as companies or third party certifiers on one hand and law enforcement on the other
Location/Address	https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/products/spd/
Owner/Maintainer	The Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN)
Language	English
Geographic Coverage	Open to contributions from any capable laboratory from any economy
Year of Establishment	2020
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Laboratory update requests sent yearly and automatic updates based on GTTN Reference Database status.
Objective of Resource	To help interested parties in need of wood identification services find capable laboratories

<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Directory supporting due diligence and law enforcement by validating trade claims or investigations</i></p>	<p>The GTTN Service Provider Directory helps interested parties in search of support with due diligence questions and law enforcement, to find wood identification laboratories, with the right expertise depending on the product type, wood species and other relevant parameters, that can help them with validating trade claims or investigations.</p> <p>Through the GTTN Service Provider Directory service query form, interested parties are asked questions concerning, <i>inter alia</i>, wood-based products, assumed tree species, assumed geographic origin, available sample material, required maximum analysis turnover time, and standards that need to be followed. Answers to such questions help the system to determine the best possible laboratories to perform the service. Case-defining parameters that affect the right laboratory to be engaged for wood identification services include tree species, geographical origin, product type (logs, lumber, furniture, fibreboard, paper and charcoal), and specific objective.</p> <p>Information collected through the query form can also be shared by interested parties with the suggested laboratories so that laboratories can quickly understand the service needs of their potential clients.</p>
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iii) NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Research Institutes

W. Bolsa Verde do Rio de Janeiro (BVRIO) Responsible Timber Exchange

Resource Type	Online negotiations platform providing buyers sourcing for legal and sustainable timber products
Target Audience	Traders of tropical timber internationally
Location/Address	https://www.bvrio.com/madeira/negocio/negocio/lista.do?language=en-us
Owner/Maintainer	BVRio Institute, a Brazilian organisation with a mission to develop market mechanisms to facilitate compliance with environmental laws.
Language	English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Bahasa Indonesia and Chinese.
Geographic Coverage	Global presence with users from 45 economies from the Americas; Europe; China; Africa; South Asia; and Southeast Asia.
Year of Establishment	November 2016
Maintained/Updated	Yes. All information and documentation on products offered and requests for quotations are managed and updated by the users themselves
Objective of Resource	To (1) facilitate the sourcing of legal and sustainable timber and timber products; (2) enable timber traders to screen out illegal timber from their supply base; and (3) help combat illegality in the sector through demand-side pressure
<p>Summary of Resource</p> <p><i>Online negotiations platform to source legal and sustainable timber products globally</i></p>	<p>The Responsible Timber Exchange is an online negotiations platform to source legal and sustainable timber products globally. All the timber products in the platform have either a valid certification number from a certification scheme (FSC, PEFC, FLEGT) or other documentation that evidences legislation compliance.</p> <p>The platform shows documentation uploaded voluntarily by sellers for the purposes of carrying out due diligence. Only the products with documentation uploaded are approved and displayed on the platform for sale. The platform is intended to increase the transparency, efficiency and liquidity of the timber market by promoting the trading of timber products from legal and/or certified sources.</p>

X. RIFPI's China Responsible Forest Product Trade and Investment Alliance (RFA) website¹⁴

Resource Type	Online platform providing real-time comprehensive information, database and tools for responsible forest product trade in China
Target Audience	China RFA members, other industries, government and NGOs etc., mainly in China
Location/Address	http://www.chinarfa.cn/ http://www.chinarfa.cn/en/
Owner/Maintainer	Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RIPFI, CAF)
Language	Mainly in Chinese with limited information in English
Geographic Coverage	Mainly in China, English version is open globally
Year of Establishment	December 2015
Maintained/Updated	Yes. Updates to legislation, news, events, tools and database are made if available.
Objective of Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build an Exchange Platform to strengthen information communications and dialogues among actors on responsible forest product trade and investment; • Enhance market linkages to incentivise the practices of green forest product trade and investment and thus expedite the sustainable development process in China; and • Improve corporate awareness and capacity to promote responsible forest products by providing useful tools, database and information etc.
Summary of Resource	<p>A comprehensive website on China's responsible forest product trade and investment developed with the support of the China-UK Collaboration on the International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) program, World Bank and National Forest and Grassland Administration etc.</p> <p>The website shares information on wood legality regulations, news and progress in the world for China RFA members and Chinese stakeholders, especially for the industry to learn about international market requirements. A database of responsible companies in China with FSC/PEFC/CFCC certifications, wood legality verification system and other due diligence system to create market linkages for the industry to identify responsible sources and markets are also provided.</p> <p>Other resources include economy-specific guidelines, and data on resources, trade and laws of key partners of China.</p>
<i>Comprehensive website providing information on responsible forest product trade and investment in China by sharing legality regulations, news and information on responsible companies etc.</i>	

VI. CONCLUSION

Timber legality is an important yet complex issue. Timber operators will need to tread carefully through existing domestic and foreign regulations in order to perform their necessary due diligence exercises and to ensure the distribution of legally harvested forest products. A wide variety of resources are available to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products. Some resources take the form of legislative databases that provide key regulations or documents necessary to prove timber legality, while others provide risk profiles that act as (initial) screening mechanisms to aid timber operators in deciding how comprehensively they should verify the legality of their commodities. Some other resources provide guidance on certification to allow users to fact-check the originality of the documents they have.

¹⁴ This information is provided by China's representative from EGILAT.

This compendium of resources is a comprehensive document that provides a framework to review and compile available resources. Nevertheless, the degree to which this compendium facilitates trade in harvested forest products may differ by the economy and the capability of timber operators in assessing it.

The following are some general observations based on the survey responses from resources.

5.1. Robustness of Methodology

In general, the resources being reviewed have a definite methodology. Some resources providing economy guidance documents, including, the APEC timber legality guidance documents, have the information they provide approved by the respective economies prior to publication. Most resources conduct fact-checking exercises to verify the existing information before publishing; in some cases, external reviewers are also involved. Most resources recognise that it is important to maintain a close dialogue with competent authorities and relevant stakeholders to facilitate the fact-checking exercises. Some resources that provide risk analysis and profiles have published their methodologies online for transparency and to aid understanding. These risk analysis resources rely heavily on quantitative indicators or data to conduct their assessments. Certain resources have applied a method that is unique in analysing risk and profiling. As the resources provided within this compendium have different methods of assessing risk, the source of information should be taken into consideration when accessing any of the resources. In some resources, timber legality assessment is undertaken based on self-defined standards, beyond the domestic law and regulation of the economy of harvest. A few resources rely on information provided by the private sector such as logging companies and certification bodies.

Interestingly, a big data approach was applied by a resource to verify the authenticity and validity of documentation and to cross-check information for inconsistencies and irregularities. More targeted efforts to periodically seek feedback and engagement from users and stakeholders would also help ensure the effectiveness and accuracy of the information provided.

The robustness of the methodology would also depend on how often fact-checking exercises are conducted. A few resources are governed by certain international standards in verifying their information. It is important to note that information provided by these resources should not be seen as exhaustive and operators should adopt additional measures especially when the risk of illegality is high.

5.2. Relevance to Timber Operators

The resources strive to provide relevant information to help their users engage in legal timber trade. The content and the packaging of the information differ depending on the nature and objective of the resource. Legislative resources identify relevant laws and regulations, as well as provide examples of documents that could indicate or certify legal compliance with harvesting, processing and trading. These resources also provide information on local forest management arrangements, procedures and methods to identify legal timber. Certain resources directly provide the relevant information while others supply links to existing resources that provide legality framework analyses and documents to demonstrate compliance with timber legality to avoid duplication of efforts. In general, none of the resources cover all APEC economies. Some of the resources have very minimum coverage of APEC economies.

Resources providing risk assessments offer (quantitative) information on forest resources, forest sector international trade and assessment of forest policy framework as well as certain governance-related indicators. Some resources also provide information on the description of wood identification reference data to support verification of trade claims or forensic applications, or provide real-time forest data to assess the risk of illegal logging.

Toolkit resources aim to assist traders/operators with the due diligence and risk assessment processes for timber products. These resources help in understanding the required steps to conduct proper due diligence by offering an easy-to-understand template. Several resources also provide access to additional guides that could be useful in identifying fraud or fake documentation, for example.

Using Indirect Resources to Support Assessments

Some resources such as ILAT Risk, FSC and Preferred by Nature use indicators/data from other IO and NGO resources to support their assessments. Specific sources shared by some of the risk assessing resources that help form the overall picture of risk in an economy, include, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank's annual assessment of fragile and conflict situations, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), Global Conflict Tracker and domestic statistics reports.

These reports provide relevant information for businesses to assess risks when dealing with economies that have significant illegal logging issues. It is also important to note that these governance and corruption indicators may not specifically reflect the direct risk of illegal harvest in a source economy. Interpretation of these information needs to be treated with some caution and be considered in the full context of the due diligence process.

5.3 Clarity of Information and Timeliness

Most resources provide information in an easy-to-understand format with some elaboration and explanation for relevant documents, as needed. Information is categorised under relevant headings; charts, tables and decision trees are used to enhance clarity and understanding in some cases. Links to external resources and government agencies are also provided when necessary. Few resources act as a centralised platform by providing links to other resources. Certain resources provide tutorials and step-by-step instructions to aid navigation.

Most resources update whenever necessary or conduct regular updates periodically (annually or every 3-5 years). Nevertheless, in some of the resources, the information/data presented is obsolete (older than 10 years) and uses undefined sources and users should take this into consideration when accessing the resources. Some resources depend on the information providers/primary sources, such as wood identification laboratories to do an update. Others have established regular reviews and provide continuous updates when new data or information becomes available. The frequency of the updates depends on organisational capacity and funding.

5.4 Future Plans

Most resources plan to continue providing their service and may engage in improvements such as expanding coverage or strengthening the reliability of their resources by conducting more frequent updates. Availability of funding is expected to be a major constraint to expansions and frequency

of updates. Establishing a stakeholder network could help to ensure that the information being displayed is relevant and up-to-date.

There could be duplication of efforts to a certain degree among these resources, but it is probably unavoidable due to the complex nature of domestic regulations on timber legality and the due diligence processes accompanying the trade of such commodities.

In its future work, EGILAT may wish to explore ways to increase the dissemination and practical application of this important product to assist stakeholders in conducting trade in legal forest products. This could include continuing dialogue with featured resource providers and other partners to increase awareness of the compendium, update and refine its content and usability as appropriate, and otherwise seek to maximise its impact and benefit.

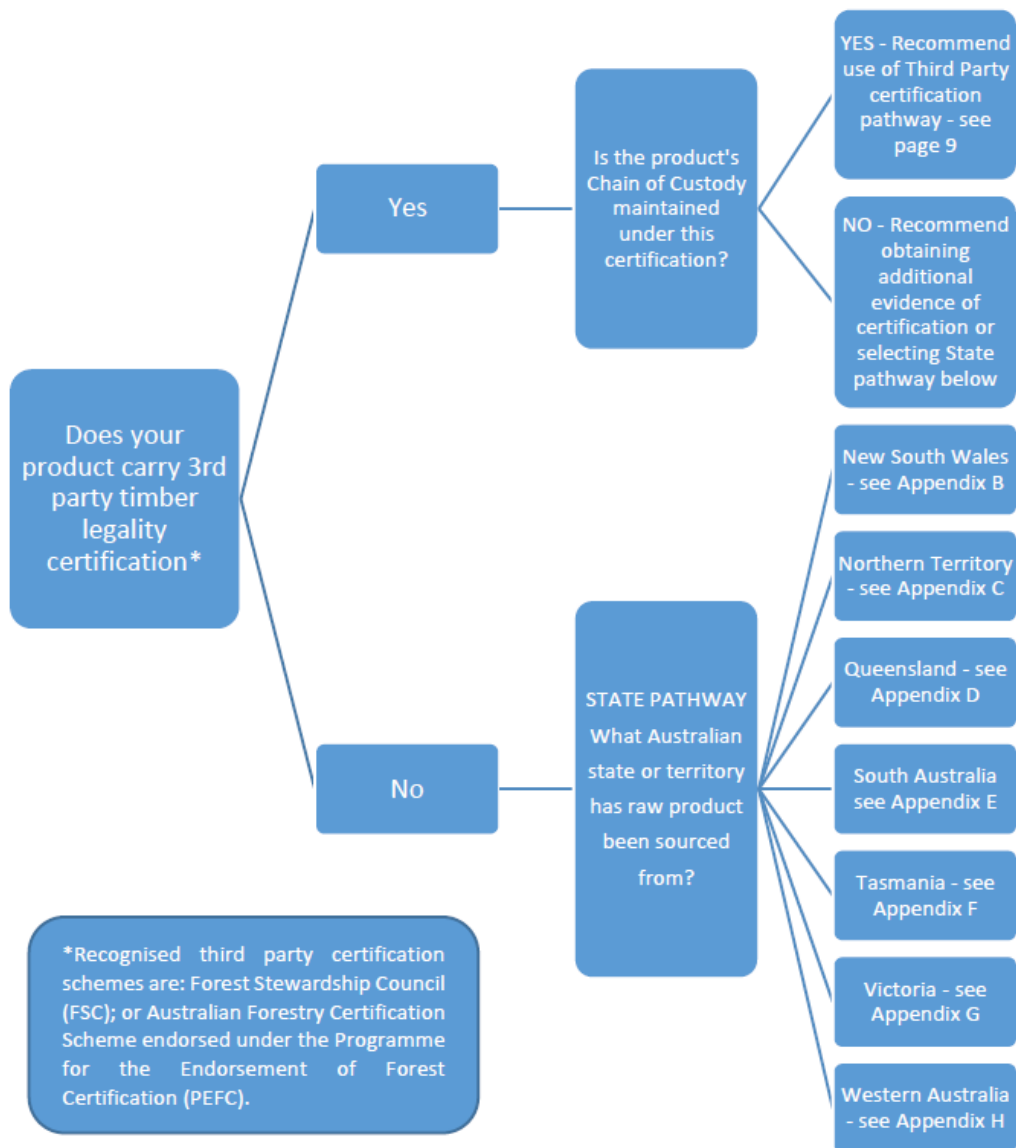
APPENDIX A: Literature Review on the Concept of Timber Legality

The various categories of timber law that have been used by different APEC economies and international organisations are listed below.

A. APEC Economies

Australia passed the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (ILPA) in 2012. Pursuant to Article 6 of the ILPA, the importation of illegally logged timber and the processing of illegally logged raw logs is prohibited. It is worthwhile to note that the ILPA defines illegality solely in relation to the act of “logging” or “harvesting”. Hence, in contrast to U.S.’s Legal Timber Protection Act (LTPA) and the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), the ILPA applies a narrower focus on “harvesting” and on raw logs. To reduce the risk that illegally logged timber is imported or processed, importers of regulated timber products and processors of raw logs are required under the ILPA to conduct due diligence. The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 has set out the following due diligence steps to manage the risk of importing illegally logged timber: (1) establish and maintain a due diligence system by documenting the steps to be taken to minimise the risk of importing illegally logged timber products; (2) gather relevant information and evidence such as the origin and legality of the timber contained in the product intended to be imported; (3) conduct a risk assessment using one of the three available methods of (a) Timber Legality Framework, (b) Country Specific Guidelines; and (c) Regulated Risk Factors; (4) mitigate the risk by taking steps to reduce the risk of importing illegally logged products; and (5) maintain written records by documenting the steps taken. As described in the Timber Legality Guidance document, the pathways for demonstrating timber legality in Australia are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Pathways for Demonstrating Timber Legality in Australia



Source: EGILAT timber legality guidance template for Australia. (November 2018). For illustrative purposes only, this chart is not meant to be a comprehensive summary of Australia’s laws or requirements.

Issues such as ‘Chain of Custody’ and certification provided by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are covered. When the regulated timber products to be imported are certified under the FSC or PEFC, the Timber Legality Framework can be used as a risk assessment method. The timber legality framework method recognises that the FSC and PEFC certification schemes provide rigorous forest management and chain of custody standards that consider risks of illegally logged timber. If importers can confirm that the timber is certified and are not aware of any other information that suggests the product contains illegal timber, the risk may be assessed as low and the timber product may proceed to be imported.

Brunei Darussalam defined ‘Legally Harvested Forest Products’ as “the forest produce that are cut, harvested, found, collected, transported, processed, sold or bought that originates from Reserved Forests, Stateland, Reserved Land other than Reserved Forests, and/or Alienated land under appropriate license issued by the Director of Forestry, to include forest produce that are

collected as part of the privileges for the natives of Brunei Darussalam, as provided for by existing Brunei Forestry Laws, Rules and Regulations”¹⁵.

The Forest Law of the People's Republic of **China** was amended on December 28, 2019 and came into force on July 1, 2020. The newly-added articles in the amended Forest Law provide legal guarantee to the trade in legal and sustainable forest products. The Regulations on the Implementation of the amended Forest Law is being revised. In accordance with the amended Forest Law, timber processing enterprise should establish an account for the entry and exit of raw materials and products. No unit or individual may purchase, process or transport timber that he/she clearly knows was piratically felled or indiscriminately felled in forest regions. In addition, any felling of woods of forest lands should apply for a felling permit and the felling must be carried out pursuant to the provisions of the permit. Forging, altering, buying or selling, and leasing timber felling permits are prohibited. Forestry operators may voluntarily apply for forest certification to improve forest management levels and promote sustainable forest management.

In **Japan**, the Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-harvested Wood and Wood Products (the Clean Wood Act) came into force on 20 May 2017. The Objective of the Clean Wood Act is to promote the use and distribution of wood and wood products made from trees harvested in compliance with the laws and regulations of Japan and the economies of origin. Under the Clean Wood Act, Japan requires all Wood-related Business Entities to check the legality of wood and wood products they handle in accordance with the Ministerial Ordinance Specifying the Standards of Judgement for Wood-related Business Entities to Ensure the Use of Legally-harvested Wood and Wood Products (Ordinance on Standards of Judgement)¹⁶. Business entities can refer to the Clean Wood Navi¹⁷ when they check the legality of wood and wood products.

Korea implemented the “Act on Sustainable Use of Timbers” on 1 October 2018, which aims to promote legal timber trade by restricting the import and distribution of illegally harvested timber products in Korea. In accordance with the Act, importers of timber and timber products shall file an import declaration thereof with the Minister of the Korea Forest Service (KFS). Timber producers and importers shall retain documents verifying timber legality for a duration of five years.

KFS requires the following documents to establish evidence for timber legality:

- A permit for felling issued pursuant to the statutes of the economy of origin
- Documents internationally recognized to certify legally felled timber or timber product
- A document mutually recognised through bilateral consultations between the Republic of Korea and the economy of origin
- Any other document which verifies that the relevant timber or timber product has been legally felled.

In **Indonesia**, there are several legality matrices for different kinds of rights holdings, as reflected in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement that it signed with the EU. There are five legality standards which inform the constitution of legally produced timber:

- (i) For concessions within production forest zones on state-owned lands;
- (ii) For community plantation forests and community forests within production zones on state-owned lands;
- (iii) For privately-owned forests;

¹⁵ Document 2014/SOM2/EGILAT/023.

¹⁶ EGILAT timber legality guidance template for Japan, version: August 2018.

¹⁷ Clean Wood Navi. Retrieved from: <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/riyou/goho/index.html>

- (iv) For timber utilization rights within non-forest zones on state-owned lands; and
- (v) For primary and downstream forest-based industries.

Each of the five legality standards includes a series of principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers.

Additionally, Norman and Saunders (2017)¹⁸ noted documents that could be considered to support the evidence of legality for timber imported into **Indonesia, Malaysia, and Viet Nam** (Table 2).

Table 1. Illustration of Documentary Evidence of Legality under Timber Import Regulation for Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam

Indonesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FLEGT license; and/or 2. MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement) Economy License from the economy that has work agreement of recognition of legality assurance of the timber and trade with Indonesia; and/or 3. Country Specific Guidelines (CSG) or the like on the legality of forest products, regulated by exporting economies; and/or 4. Certificate from a certification agency that applies certification scheme on legality or sustainability of forest products along with the traceability. 5. Reference letter from the authority of the economy of harvest or economy of origin of forest products on the legality or sustainability of forest products.
Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FLEGT license; or 2. Timber Certification (FSC, PEFC, MTCS, and other credible certification scheme); or 3. Certificate of Voluntary Legality Scheme; or 4. Legality Document issued by any agency / corporation / recognized association; or 5. Self-declaration documents by the exporter with endorsement by the authorities of the exporting economy; or 6. A copy of the Customs Declaration of the exporting economy.
Viet Nam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valid FLEGT license or equivalent export license covering the entire shipment from an exporting economy which has concluded a VPA with the EU and has an operational FLEGT licensing system in place; or 2. Valid CITES permit covering the entire shipment; or 3. A Self-declaration demonstrating due diligence, additional documentation according to the risk categories status of the imported timber as specified in Table 4 of Annex V of the VPA to demonstrate legal harvest. 4. In addition, importers must also include information on legal requirements for timber export in the economy of harvest. Specific examples of documents to demonstrate compliance are not set out in the VPA.

Source: Adapted from Norman and Saunders (2017).

The **United States** adopted the Legal Timber Protection Act (LTPA) in 2007 to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. Pursuant to these amendments, it is unlawful under the Lacey Act to import, export, sell, acquire or purchase fish, wildlife or plants or their parts that are taken, possessed, transported, or sold: 1) in violation of U.S. Tribal Law, or 2) in interstate or foreign commerce involving any fish, wildlife, or plants or their parts taken possessed or sold in violation of State or foreign law. It is also unlawful to make or submit any false record, account, or label for false identification of any fish, wildlife, or plant intended to be imported, exported, transported, sold, purchased or received from any foreign economy or to be transported in interstate or foreign

¹⁸ Marigold, N. and Jade, S. (2017). Regulating the Trade in Illegal Timber: Asian Approaches Compared - State of Play June 2017. Forest Trends. Retrieved from: <https://www.forest-trends.org/publications/regulating-trade-illegal-timber/>

commerce. In contrast to Australia's ILPA, the provisions in U.S.'s LTPA include violations of trade or transport law.

B. International Organisations

Components of the legality assessment of timber products could pertain to specific stages of the timber supply chain as described above in Section 2.1 as well as certain social and/or environmental principles as included in Box 1.

Box 1. Potential Components of Legality in the Forest Sector

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- Tenure and use rights. Clearly established property rights or use rights approved by relevant authorities; clear property boundaries, land registries, and approved uses of land
 - Forest management. Forest management plans including silvicultural systems to be employed, harvesting plans and permits
 - Protected areas. Conformity with protected area legislation both within the forest management unit and in surrounding areas
 - Protected species. Compliance with laws and regulations regarding protected species of flora and fauna and their habitat
 - Environmental and social impact assessments. Observance of laws and regulations regarding environmental and social impacts and mitigation procedures
 - Indigenous peoples and local community rights. Compliance with legislation related to the protection of indigenous and local community rights that may be affected by forest operations
 - Workers' rights, health and safety. Respect of work laws such as those related to minimum wage and job stability, as well those concerning health conditions and safety of operations
 - Taxes and fees. Compliance with tax laws and other payments to government related to the operations of forest corporations
 - International agreements. Satisfaction of prescriptions contained in international treaties such as CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Chain of custody. Compliance with regulations that mandate specific ways to prove legal origin through the whole chain of custody
 - Product marking. Observance of rules regarding marking and identification of products and consistency with associated documentation
 - Processing, sales and shipping. Compliance of processing, sales and shipping corporations with legal requirements for their activities such as operating licences, registration with relevant authorities, building permits for processing and storage facilities
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Source: FAO. (2005). Best practices for improving law compliance in the forestry sector.

NEPCo, a non-profit organisation supporting better management and business practices to safeguard natural resources and tackle climate change, identified the following 21 sub-categories of law that they deem relevant to the legality of a timber supply chain (Figure 3). These 21 sub-categories were based on the Forest Stewardship Council's requirements, which had been aligned to the EUTR in further defining the areas of law relevant to the harvest, transport and trade of forest products. The categories and sub-categories cover the scope of all the definitions for legal/illegal timber pursuant to the EU Timber Regulation, the U.S. Lacey Act and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act.

Figure 3. NEPCon Legality Indicators (based on the FSC requirements)

Legality Framework	
Timber Harvesting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber harvesting regulations • Protected sites and species • Environmental requirements • Health and safety • Legal employment
Taxes and Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of royalties and harvesting fees • Value added taxes and other sales taxes • Income and profit taxes
Legal Rights to Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land tenure and management rights • Concession licenses • Management and harvesting planning • Harvesting permits
Trade and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification of species, quantities, qualities • Trade and transport • Offshore trading and transfer pricing • Custom regulations • CITES • Due diligence and due care
Third Parties' Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customary rights • Free prior and informed consent • Indigenous/traditional peoples' rights

Source: Adapted from Preferred by Nature. Timber risk assessment methodology. <https://www.nepcon.org/sourcinghub/info/timber-risk-assessment-methodology> [accessed 28 July 2021]

The International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) commented that in general, the term “illegal logging” is very broadly used to include not one but rather a multitude of activities, which could also be termed “illegal forest activities”. As shown in Table 3 below, the categories of legality assessment under the IUFRO seem to be very expansive with illegal forest activities comprising violations of public trust such as paying bribes or using violence for personal gain; violations of property rights ranging from public and communal to private; and violations of regulations, notably, relating to forest management, timber processing or finances/taxes.¹⁹

Table 3. Categories of Legality Assessment under the International Union of Forest Research Organisations

Typology of Illegal Forest Activities		
Categories	Broad Descriptions	Specific Examples
Violations of forest management regulations and other contractual agreements in either public or private forestlands	Acts against forest legislation – the category that includes most of the acts that may be most appropriately referred to as illegal logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging without authorisations and/or required plans • Logging in excess of permitted cut

¹⁹ International Union of Forest Research Organisations. (2016). Forests Beyond the Law: Scientific Insights into Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade. Austria: Eigner Druck.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging unauthorized volumes, sizes, species (including protected ones) • Logging in prohibited areas such as steep slopes, riverbanks and water catchments • Girdling or ring-barking to kill trees so that they can be legally logged • Logging in protected areas • Arson to force conversion to other land use
Violations of transport and trade regulations	This category is referred to as illegal timber trade, which includes acts that violate forest legislation and may be related to legally or illegally harvested forest products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transporting logs without authorization • Smuggling timber • Exporting and importing tree species banned under international law, such as CITES • Exporting and importing timber in contravention of domestic bans
Violations of timber processing regulations	Timber processing activities may be regulated by industry and trade-related legislation as well as forestry legislation. A violation directly linked to illegal logging is the use of illegally harvested logs. Violation of financial, accounting and tax regulations may involve acts related to legally or illegally harvested and/or traded timber, falling within the category known as illegal financial activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating without a processing licence • Expanding capacity without authorization • Using illegally-obtained wood in industrial processing • Operating in violation of environmental, social and labour laws • Violations of financial, accounting and tax regulations • Untrue declarations of volumes, species, values • Declaring inflated prices for goods and services purchased from related companies, including transfer pricing • Evasion and avoidance of taxes • Money-laundering through forest activities, or from illegal forest activities

Source: Adapted from Chapter 2 “Defining Illegal Forest Activities and Illegal Logging” of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations Report, which was based on Tacconi et al. (2003), who drew on Contreras-Hermosilla (2001).

The ASEAN Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Legality of Timber provide a regional reference for the verification of timber legality in ASEAN Member economies, particularly in those that are timber producing (Table 4). The C&I provide a step-wise implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) on Forest Management Unit (FMU) level²⁰.

²⁰ Forest Management Unit (FMU) is an area designated for forest management, characterized by a management and/or harvesting plan and a defined boundary (area of origin of the verified timber).

Table 4. ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber

Criteria	Description
Criterion 1: The FME (Forest Management Enterprise) ²¹ holds the legal right to operate and to harvest timber at the designated forest area.	The FME shall prove that it is formally registered with relevant government authorities and has validly obtained the legal right to operate within the FMU under verification. The legal status of the FMU shall be clearly defined and boundaries delineated.
Criterion 2: The FME holds approved authorisation for its harvesting operations, based on an approved cut.	The FME shall have received the necessary approvals for its utilisation activities based on the relevant planning requirements legislated by the relevant authorities.
Criterion 3: The FME fulfils Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) compliance and the requirements of relevant environmental laws and regulations.	The FME shall demonstrate compliance with the applicable provisions of CITES and the relevant laws and regulations relating to environmental obligations of a forest management operation.
Criteria 4: The FME fulfils the requirements of relevant social laws and regulations.	The FME shall demonstrate compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to the social obligations of a forest management operation.
Criterion 5: The FME has paid all statutory charges directly related to timber harvesting and timber trade.	The FME consistently settles all due payments of obligatory taxes, fees and/or royalties associated with maintaining the legal right to harvest and permitted harvesting volumes to the appropriate authority in a timely manner.
Criterion 6: The FME implements a traceability system that allows for the tracking of all logs from the forest gate to the relevant harvesting sites.	Chain-of-custody is a system that provides a link between verified/certified material in a product or product line and the forest source of origin. It consists of documentation that describes the path taken by forest products from the harvesting site to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, transformation, and distribution. Documented control of this chain is a fundamental requirement to ensure that separation is maintained between verified (legal) and non-verified products.

Source: Adapted from the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber. https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/archive/AMAF%2031%20ASEAN%20CnI%20for%20legal%20timber_final.pdf [accessed: 28 July 2021]

The EU also established the Forest Law, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003 to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally-produced timber (FLEGT Briefing Note 2²²).

In addition, the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber exporting economies outside the EU seek to ensure that timber and timber products imported into the EU from a partner economy comply with the laws of that economy (FLEGT Briefing Note 6²³). Each VPA includes a definition of timber legality, which represents a core element of the timber legality assurance system that is negotiated and agreed upon between the two parties before the signing of

²¹ Forest Management Enterprise (FME) is an entity implementing forest management and harvesting activities at the defined forest management area. It can be a concessionaire, a governmental or public body, a private enterprise, a community based operation.

²² EU FLEGT. (2007). FLEGT Briefing Notes Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade: What is legal timber?. Retrieved from: <https://www.euflegt.efi.int/documents/10180/28299/FLEGT+Briefing+Notes+2+-+What+is+legal+timber/c4a62ef5-515e-4271-9a31-af5045426e11> [accessed 28 July 2021].

²³ EU FLEGT. (2007). FLEGT Briefing Notes Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade: Voluntary Partnership Agreements. Retrieved from: <https://www.euflegt.efi.int/documents/10180/28299/FLEGT+Briefing+Notes+6+-+Voluntary+Partnership+Agreements/a10165b0-5bef-4e39-8f2a-fda2b1ceb6d5> [accessed 28 July 2021].

the VPA. Timber and timber products must comply with such definitions of timber legality in order to receive FLEGT licenses. Legality is defined according to existing domestic laws and regulations. Several timber-producing economies have defined illegal timber in their VPAs with the EU as that which contravenes a range of laws and regulations, including those on forest management, tax laws, trade regulations and land tenure rights. While a partner economy has the right to decide which laws are applicable for defining legal timber, the EU has suggested that the definition of legality should include the laws that address economic, social and environmental objectives (FLEGT Briefing Note 2²⁴), such as:

- Complying with harvesting rights within legally established areas;
- Complying with the relevant environment, labour and community welfare requirements;
- Complying with requirements on tax, import and export duties, royalties and fees related to harvesting and trade;
- Respecting local tenure rights; and
- Complying with trade and export procedure requirements.

For example, in the EU-Indonesia VPA signed on 4 September 2009 and entered into force on 1 December 2009, timber is deemed legal “when its origin and production process as well as subsequent processing, transport and trade activities are verified as meeting all applicable Indonesian laws and regulations”.²⁵

The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) Guide to Legal and Responsible Sourcing provided a matrix of generic documents required under specific supply chain stages from harvesting to exporting.²⁶

²⁴ EU FLEGT. (2007). FLEGT Briefing Notes Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade: What is legal timber?. Retrieved from: <http://www.fao.org/3/ax949e/ax949e.pdf> [accessed 28 July 2021].

²⁵ EUR-Lex. (2014). VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT between the European Union and the Republic of Indonesia on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products into the European Union. Retrieved from: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22014A0520\(02\)&rid=10](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22014A0520(02)&rid=10) [accessed 28 July 2021].

²⁶ WWF and TRAFFIC. (2013). Exporting in a Shifting Legal Landscape. Retrieved from: http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/exporting_guide_final_1_30_13.pdf [accessed 28 July 2021].