



International Council of Forest and Paper Associations Illegal Logging

The global forest products industry supports efforts to prevent illegal logging because of its contribution to deforestation and its negative effects on global commerce. Illegal logging undermines the viability of legally harvested and traded forest products and is a serious detriment to forest sustainability. Although most deforestation is the result of conversion of forest land to agriculture, the environmental destruction caused by illegal logging creates negative perceptions of the forest products industry as a whole. The ICFPA commits to work with all interested groups to find solutions to this international problem.

While illegal logging can be addressed most effectively through strong law enforcement on the ground, it also has been recognized that market demand in consumer countries contributes to trade in illegal timber. To wit, governments in key developed countries have instituted laws and measures in recent years against illegal logging and trade in illegally produced wood and wood products by requiring importers to exercise due diligence in their supply chain and by imposing various penalties on violators. The Lacey Act in the United States, the European Union Timber Regulation, and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act aim to deny market access to wood which is not legally harvested or traded.

Acknowledging that forest law enforcement is the responsibility of domestic authorities and addressing it at the international level raises issues of national sovereignty and interpretation, ICFPA members may develop country-specific approaches to address the question of verifying legality in timber trade. The ICFPA and its members are united behind the following principles:

- Encourage sustainable forest management according to internationally agreed principles.
- Strongly support the conservation of forest areas that have been designated for protection by law.
- Commit to abide by domestic and sovereign laws pertaining to logging and harvesting in any country where logging and tree removals take place; and support the establishment of laws and regulations that promote and advance sustainable forest management and their subsequent enforcement in countries where such laws are not in place.
- Acknowledge that voluntary and market-driven certification systems can partially address the problems associated with illegal logging.
- Encourage all levels of government and the private sector to work together to end all illegal logging from areas where timber harvesting is expressly prohibited.

- Support government monitoring and assessment of forests as essential to devising appropriate and effective measures to counteract illegal logging and trade of illegally harvested wood.

The ICFPA associations commit to conduct consistent with these principles.

Approved by the ICFPA steering committee on October 28, 2013.