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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission



**Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on
Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region**
16-17 September 2004
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR NOMINATION OF EXPERTS
AND SUBMISSION OF COUNTRY REPORTS**

This note contains information on the workshop and a call for **nomination of experts** and **contributions of national reports**. A preliminary nomination form is set out in Annex 1, which nominating parties are requested to return before **30 June 2004**.

Additional background details including its objectives, target participants, proposed programme and the requested country reports, are presented on Annex 2.

The suggested format for the country reports is set out in Annex 3.

All relevant information on the workshop will be provided on UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission website:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/tc-meet.htm>

1.0 Background

1.1 The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing identified illegal logging as an important market issue and presented a discussion paper on the subject at the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions in October 2003. The Committee stated in its market statement:

“Forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) is at present the main issue in the forest sector and the Committee’s annual Market Discussions provided a forum for a multi-stakeholder discussion. Illegal logging denies revenues to governments, industries and forest owners, puts downward pressure on forest products prices, negatively affects workers and compromises sustainable forest management. The Committee wants to work together with other organizations to determine the extent and causes of illegal logging and trade”.

1.2 Following this, UNECE and FAO decided to convene a Workshop on Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region which will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 16 to 17 September 2004.

2.0 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the workshop are to provide a forum for discussion on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, illegal logging and trade of illegally-sourced forest products in the UNECE region, and in particular:

- identify the main types and causes of illegal logging in the region;
- try to estimate the extent of the problem, on the basis of national reports;
- give preliminary consideration to what international activity, if any, is desirable to combat illegal logging and trade in the UNECE region; and
- report the workshop’s proposals for follow-up to the joint session of the Timber Committee (TC) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) in October 2004.

3.0 Nomination and participation of experts from UNECE countries

3.1 Nomination of an expert is requested from UNECE countries to present a national report at the workshop. Participants are sought from countries within the UNECE region (Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America), nominated by heads of delegations to either the TC or EFC. Modest funding for travel and associated expenses may be available for one participant from each CIS and eastern European country for presenting their national report. A nomination form is attached as Annex 1.

4.0 Country reports

4.1 Each country and organisation participating will be required to prepare a short report, according to the specified format set out in Annex 2. All reports will be submitted in advance in electronic format for uploading to the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission website and for distribution as a basis for discussion in the workshop. Advance receipt according to the deadlines is essential to enable translation.

- 4.2 Reports may be written in English, Russian or French. English is preferred due to limited translation services.

5.0 Languages of the Workshop

- 5.1 The Workshop will be conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation in French and Russian.

6.0 Nomination Deadline

- 6.1 In order to have country reports' abstracts translated and to arrange expense payment in advance of travel, response for nomination is requested by 15 June 2004.

7.0 Country report deadlines

- 7.1 For the abstract, the deadline is 15 July 2004, and 2 August 2004 for the full report. Reply for nomination and reports (both abstract and full report) can be sent by e-mail to (Cynthia.de.castro@unece.org) or by fax (4122 917 0041).

Annex 1

Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on
Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region,
16-17 September 2004
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

NOMINATIONS FORM

Please send this by fax (4122 917 0041) or by e-mail: Cynthia.de.castro@unece.org

To: Mr. C.F.L. Prins
Chief, UNECE/FAO Timber Branch
Room 456 Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

The following person is nominated to participate from my country to the above-mentioned workshop:

Name of country: _____

Name of nominee: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Fax No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Country report to contribute to the workshop:

Estimated Number of pages: _____

Expected date of submission: _____

Questions regarding our country report should be addressed to:

- _____ (a) Head of the country delegation to the UNECE/Timber Committee or FAO
European Forestry Commission
- _____ (b) The person nominated at the workshop
- _____ (c) Both (a) and (b) above

Name of person nominating: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Fax No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Annex 2

Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on **ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TRADE OF ILLEGALLY-DERIVED FOREST PRODUCTS** **IN THE UNECE REGION: CAUSES AND EXTENT** **16-17 September 2004, Geneva, Switzerland**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Objectives

Provide (for the first time) a forum for discussion on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, illegal logging and trade of illegally-sourced forest products in the UNECE region, and in particular:

- Identify the main types and causes of illegal logging in the region
- Try to estimate the extent of the problem, on the basis of national reports
- Give preliminary consideration to what international activity, if any, is desirable to combat illegal logging and trade in the UNECE region.
- Report the workshop's proposals for follow-up to the joint session of the Timber Committee (TC) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) in October 2004.

Participants

- UNECE region country representatives nominated by heads of TC and EFC delegations
- 55 country UNECE region includes Europe (41), Commonwealth of Independent States (12) and North America (2)
- Representatives of international organizations, NGOs, trade associations
- Selected speakers

Venue

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

English, French and Russian simultaneous interpretation

Limited to 60 participants to ensure adequate discussion opportunities

Background

The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing identified illegal logging as an important market issue and presented a discussion paper on the subject at the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions in October 2003. Following discussion, the TC stated in its market statement "Forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) is at present the main issue in the forest sector and the Committee's annual Market Discussions provided a forum for a multi-stakeholder discussion. Illegal logging denies revenues to governments, industries and forest owners, puts downward pressure on forest products prices, negatively affects workers and compromises sustainable forest management. The Committee wants to work together with other organizations to determine the extent and causes of illegal logging and trade".

Programme

Thursday, 16 September 2004

Morning session (1000-1300)

Keynote presentation
Background presentations
FAO
European Commission
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing
Panel discussion

Afternoon session (1500-1800)

Country report presentations
CIS region, followed by discussion
Western Europe region, followed by discussion
Evening: Reception, then drafting of conclusions and recommendations by secretariat

Friday, 17 September 2004

Morning session (1000-1300)

Country report presentations continued
Central and eastern European countries, followed by discussion
North American region, followed by discussion

Afternoon session (1500-1800)

Continuation of country reports if needed
Presentation of draft conclusions and recommendations of the workshop
Discussion

Country reports

Each country and organisation participating will be required to prepare a short report, according to the attached specified format. All reports will be submitted in advance in electronic format for uploading to the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission website and for distribution as a basis for discussion in the workshop. Advance receipt according to the deadlines is essential to enable translation. Reports may be written in English, Russian or French. English is preferred due to limited translation services.

Report deadlines:

- 15 July 2004 for the Abstract
- 2 August 2004 Full report

Cost

While there will be no admission fee, as a requirement for participation, each country or organisation will provide a short report. Donations are being requested to support the workshop costs, specifically to pay for travel and lodging expenses for participants from CEEC and CIS countries as well as a few speakers.

Further information

More information will be automatically sent by e-mail to direct recipients of this preliminary announcement. Up-to-date information about the workshop will be posted on the TC/EFC website, under "meetings", at www.unece.org/trade/timber

Specific requests for other information may be sent to Cynthia.de.castro@unece.org

Annex 3

Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TRADE OF ILLEGALLY-DERIVED FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE UNECE REGION: CAUSES AND EXTENT

Requested format for country reports to the Workshop

Purpose

In order to provide fuller input to the workshop than would be possible by presentations alone, country reports will be a means both to collect information and to disseminate it at the workshop. All attending countries will be expected to submit a country report.

Background

All countries observe some form of illegal logging or of trade in illegally produced forest products. By definition, this type of activity is difficult to monitor. However, for policy reasons, it is imperative to have some idea of whether these activities are at a significant level, and if so, what type of activity may be occurring. Participants are therefore asked to use estimates, informal sources and their best judgment in providing the estimates requested below.

What is illegal logging?

Much of the discussion on illegal logging tends to be imprecise because of a certain ambiguity about the concept of illegal logging. For the purposes of this questionnaire, we narrowly understand illegal logging as timber harvesting activities that fail to respect national and sub-national laws and norms that regulate such harvesting operations. Acts such as tax evasion or acquiring timber concessions through corrupt deals, or timber smuggling, although clearly criminal acts, are considered different illegal acts and therefore excluded from this definition.

Report topics

Please include all of the following major headings

(0, 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3 and 4) in your report.

0. Abstract. Please submit a short overview of the report. Maximum 10 sentences. If possible abstracts will be translated before the workshop.

1. Illegal logging

1.1. Types of illegal logging. In your opinion do any of the following occur at a significant level in your country? If so, please describe, specifying if possible, methods used by the criminals, species affected, regions where this occurs, etc.

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

- 1.2. What mechanisms are in place to monitor or estimate their importance?
- 1.3. In total, in your opinion, what is the volume of illegally logged wood in your country, as a percent of removals:
 - 1.3.1. Less than 1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-25%, over 25% ?
 - 1.3.2. What is this estimate based on?
 - 1.3.2.1. Comparison of production, import and export, and consumption data
 - 1.3.2.2. Sample surveys
 - 1.3.2.3. Judicial records
 - 1.3.2.4. Expert estimates, for example from reports of forest authorities
 - 1.3.2.5. Other?
- 1.4. Additional comments on the causes and extent of illegal logging in your country

2. Trade in products of illegal logging

- 2.1. Are you aware of any of the following:
 - 2.1.1. Smuggling of roundwood or forest products (import or export)
 - 2.1.2. False declaration of goods (value, species, origin)
 - 2.1.3. Other trade related falsification (e.g. falsification of certificates of sustainable forest management)
- 2.2. What mechanisms are in place to monitor discrepancies between declared imports and exports and actual imports and exports?
- 2.3. In your opinion what is the volume exported and imported of illegally-sourced wood as percentage of total wood exports?
 - 2.3.1. Less than 5%, 5-25%, over 25% ?
- 2.4. If there are significant volumes or values involved, please describe what is known about the type of fraud, its estimated volume and its causes.
- 2.5. Additional comments on the causes and extent of trade in products from illegal logging in your country

3. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade policies

- 3.1. Is your country involved in any bilateral or multilateral initiatives on FLEGT?
- 3.2. Does your country have official policies to reduce or eliminate illegal logging?
- 3.3. Does your country have official policies to reduce or eliminate trade of products from illegal logging?

4. Additional information (optional). As little is known about the topic as yet, it would help if you would provide any other information or ideas you consider relevant. For example, send in advance or bring for distribution at the workshop, any reports (published or unpublished) which may be available. (Please specify whether they are for the secretariat's internal use or for distribution at the workshop.)