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Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on Illegal Logging  
and Trade of Illegally-Derived Forest Products  
in the UNECE Region

Geneva, Switzerland, 16-17 September 2004

## THE NATIONAL REPORT ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

(Prepared by the Forest Research and Development, Forestry Institute of Tajikistan)

### Summary

Forests cover about 3 % of Tajikistan's land area. Most of these forests (so-called 1<sup>st</sup> category forests) play a vital role in water-security, erosion prevention and soil protection. Cutting timber in these forests is completely prohibited except for sanitation felling or authorized forest improvement measures. As a result, about 95 % of the country's timber consumption is imported from the Russian Federation. The remaining 5% comes from private plantations and the timber is sold locally, primarily for construction. At the time of sale the seller is required to submit documents to the forestry authority and other local authorities that confirm the source of the wood. According to the established plan of the former forestry production association (now the Ministry for Nature Protection and the State Forest Authority of the Republic of Tajikistan) 6 700 m<sup>3</sup> of wood are harvested annually to meet the needs of various organizations and basically for fuel. Every year there are between 500-600 reports of illegal logging in forests. This figure is probably an underestimate as there are too few inspectors to be able to inspect all of Tajikistan's forests. Illegal logging is known to occur even in the special protected territories.