

illegal logging

how to minimise and control



URS

Global timber markets are increasingly requiring validation that timber products are legal, from sustainably managed forests and from conflict-free land. Many governments and industries are developing policies to minimise the trade of illegal wood.

However the production of illegal wood can arise due to a breakdown in a multiplicity of frameworks and control mechanisms. This includes ineffective enforcement of regulations, lack of clarification over property rights, lack of economic alternatives, imperfect market knowledge and disempowerment of civil society and stakeholders.

Identification of legal wood can be difficult, particularly in complex supply chains and where wood products are remanufactured or incorporated into a range of consumer products.

Minimising the trade in illegal wood products is difficult, commercial interests are high, political sensitivities exist and sovereign rights need to be recognised.

Addressing illegal timber trade requires improvements in market information, engagement of the public, improved transparency of the supply chain, development of clear rules for trade and support for improving the performance of supply chain management including institutional capacity building and technical skills development.

Civil society is currently addressing timber legality through five main enabling mechanisms: intergovernmental agreements, legislation (particularly for imports), procurement policies, third party verification and supply chain support programs. The various mechanisms have differing strengths and focus areas, and can be complementary in particular settings.

Identifying and implementing solutions to address illegal timber trade requires understanding of the commercial and social drivers that impact on timber trade, informed understanding of the feasibility of implementing differing actions, detailed understanding of markets and the reporting of market information.

The URS Forestry group is a specialist forest and wood products sector consulting group, that has the understanding of wood products supply chains and value chains, and appreciation of the roles that institutions and frameworks can provide to improve timber trade legality.

URS has the understanding of each of the differing enabling mechanisms and how these will assist in satisfying market and policy requirements that require timber legality.

The URS International Development group is a leading Asia Pacific based, design, funds management and program delivery partner of choice. The group have delivered over 240 development assistance programs across 19 countries, including across Asia Pacific.

The group is part of URS Corporation, one of the largest multi-disciplinary consulting firms worldwide, with environmental, forestry, engineering and international development experience. We work with a range of donors including AusAID, USAID, MCC, DFID, World Bank and ADB, and private sector organisations such as industrials, financials and resources companies.

We apply international best practices to local project conditions. We develop responses appropriate to the specific project requirements and review and monitoring processes to support effective project implementation.

URS consults to timber importers seeking to improve the legality of their supply chain, to industry members working to develop processes which address the fundamental issues that contribute to illegal wood trade, and to governments wanting to create policies and regulatory tools to minimise importation of illegally traded wood.



The URS Forestry group is a lead advisor to a range of government and private sector clients throughout Asia-Pacific that are seeking to enhance the trade of legal wood products.

Our team has experience and detailed understanding of:

- The various enabling mechanisms being adopted by civil society in various settings around the globe to minimise illegal timber trade
- Policies and regulations that apply within major wood producing and exporting countries in the Asia Pacific region
- Application of feasible supply chain tracking systems, including newly emerging technologies such as genetic mapping
- Detailed understanding of existing chain of custody and legal verification schemes
- Timber markets and methods of assessing market movements
- The range of options available to governments and timber importers that have the potential to maximise legal wood, and minimise the potential for illegal wood, to trade within their supply chains

Relevant project experience

- Analysis of Chain of Custody and Legality Verification Schemes – Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2009 – 2010
- Legal Verification of Timber Exports from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea – Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2009
- Review of Global Lawful Timber Procurement Mechanisms – Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), 2009
- Impact of Policies on Trade of Wood Products between the EU and South East Asia – Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), 2008
- Asia Pacific Forest Policy Design and Implementation – ANZ Banking Group, 2008
- Timber Market Survey (Quarterly) – Forests NSW, multi client study, 2006-2011
- Global Illegal Timber Trade Market Research – Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), 2005 – ongoing
- Development of Timber Procurement Policy for Major Timber Retailer, Australia – Confidential client, 2003 – ongoing
- Review of Chain of Custody Procedures in Sarawak, Malaysia – Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, 2006
- Comparison of Chain of Custody Standards – AS 4707 and the PEFC International CoC Standard – Australian Forestry Standard Limited, 2005
- Development of Independent Program to Verify and Track Legal Wood for Indonesia – The Nature Conservancy, 2003

About URS

URS is a professional services company providing engineering and environmental expertise to businesses and communities within Asia Pacific and around the globe. We are scientists, engineers, economists, planners, project managers and risk management specialists. Together we form a strong multi-disciplinary team bringing knowledge, talent, experience and passion to what we do.

Our extensive capabilities in the Asia Pacific region mean that we offer comprehensive services for specialised assignments as well as large multiphase projects. We operate with a global network of approximately 42,000 personnel in over 30 countries. In Asia Pacific we have 14 offices with around 1,500 professionals. So wherever you are on the globe, we can assemble a team with skills best suited to your project.



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