



Australian Government

BRINGING DOWN THE AXE ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

An Australian Government policy to eliminate trade
in illegally sourced forest products

October 2007



**Bringing Down the Axe on Illegal Logging –
An Australian Government policy to eliminate trade
in illegally sourced forest products**

The policy can be downloaded at:
<http://www.daff.gov.au/forestry/international/illegal-logging>

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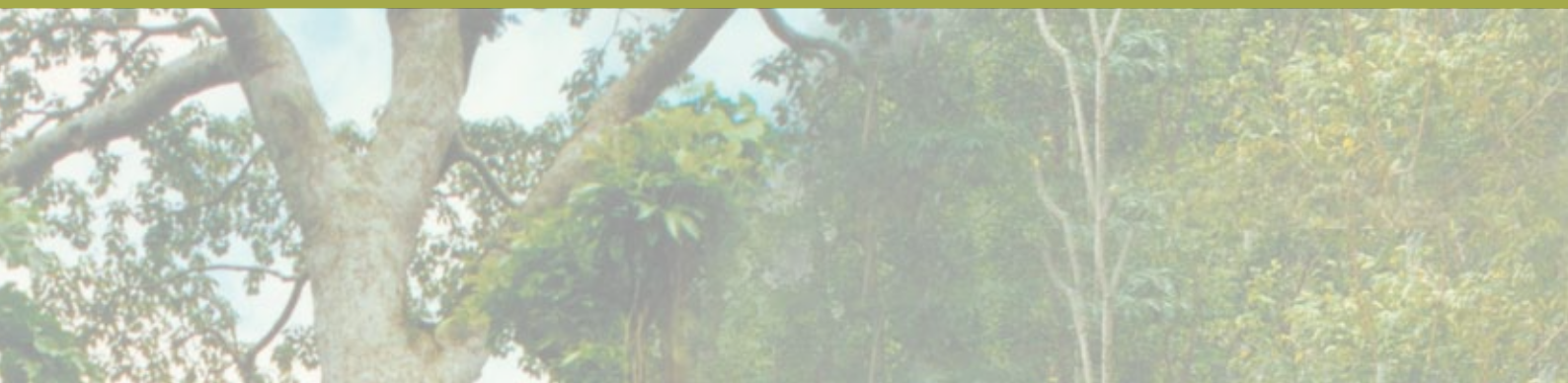
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FOREWORD

Illegal logging is a complex issue and there is no simple and easy solution. It is not something that can be resolved with simplistic promises of 'banning'. What is actually required to effectively address the issue is a suite of practical, sensible and workable solutions.

This policy provides such a suite.

Australia's experience and achievements in sustainable forest management and its commitment to the supply of legally harvested timber products has allowed us to take a leadership role on this issue and work with other nations to stamp out illegal logging.

The policy's foundation is cooperation – only by working in partnership with industries and governments, particularly in developing nations, can we end illegal harvesting.

During the development of the policy, very careful consideration was given to the issue of regulating the supply of legal forest products. However, the Australian Government considers such a response impractical, and would impact unfairly on legitimate forest product suppliers, as well as on governments and communities in developing countries that want to use their natural resources to promote development. Stakeholders, including industry and environment groups, who made written submissions on the draft policy overwhelmingly did not support the use of 'bans' on timber imports.

Rather, aiming for all traded timber to be independently certified as legal, sustainable – preferably both – is a sound, long-term objective.

It will take time and considerable resources to develop and implement such credible forest certification and chain-of-custody schemes, particularly in our region, to enable the legal and sustainable sources of imported forest products to be verified. The Government supports the development of voluntary approaches in collaboration with industry and other stakeholders to verify the legality and ultimately the sustainability of domestic and imported forest

products and to promote the production and purchase of legal forest products in Australia.

The policy also requires Australia to enhance its engagement and cooperation regionally and globally on measures to address trade in illegally sourced forest products.

This policy will work in conjunction with the Government's AUD200 million Global Initiative on Forests and Climate – a landmark programme which aims to promote sustainable forest management in the region and to establish effective regulatory and law enforcement arrangements to protect forests, including preventing illegal logging.

Good governance and review processes are also important elements of the policy. The Government has invited the Forest and Wood Products Council to provide guidance on the domestic policy measures and to report to the Government on implementation.

Support will also be provided for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group to coordinate the development and implementation of policy actions for industry to verify the legality of forest products. The need for further policy mechanisms will be kept under review, should voluntary and cooperative measures prove unsuccessful.

The Government is confident that this policy, with the support of all stakeholders, the international community and our Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, will address trade in illegally sourced forest products in the region and contribute towards the Government's long-term goal of promoting trade in certified forest products from sustainably managed forests.

ERIC ABETZ
Australian Government Minister for Fisheries,
Forestry and Conservation
October 2007





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INTRODUCTION

POLICY COMMITMENT

The Australian Government is committed to eliminating trade in illegally sourced forest products and to promoting trade from sustainably managed forests. This policy aims to set up effective systems and processes that promote trade initially in legally sourced forest products and ultimately in forest products from sustainably managed forests in Australia and overseas. These initiatives aim to reduce the adverse social, economic and environmental effects of illegal logging, including the deforestation of the world's forests. Another aim of the policy will also enable Australia's world-class legal and sustainable forest industry to compete equitably with imported forest products.

BACKGROUND

Australia's forests are highly regarded for their wide range of environmental and production values. To protect and enhance these values, the Australian Government, state and territory governments, industry and non-government organisations jointly developed a world's best practice sustainable forest management system, managed under Regional Forest Agreements¹.

In 2004, when the Government committed to expand areas for nature conservation in Tasmania, it stated that it would ensure that 'increasing the protection of Australia's high-conservation value forests should not lead to increased demand from overseas for unsustainably harvested rainforest timbers'². At the same time, the Government also undertook to 'work with major Australian timber wholesalers and retailers to examine options, consistent with our international

obligations, to encourage wholesalers and retailers to ensure the timbers they sell are sourced from sustainable forest practices'. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry consulted widely with industry, government departments and non-government organisations to identify stakeholder issues and assess policy options.

In 2005, the Department commissioned an overview of the impact of illegal logging on Australian imports of forest products³ to help develop the Government's policy options. The report estimated that in 2003-04, up to nine per cent of Australia's forest product imports, or approximately AUD400 million in value, was from potentially illegal or suspected illegal sources. The key product lines affected were furniture, paper and paperboard, plywood, sawnwood and miscellaneous items such as doors and mouldings. Each had a different level of risk of being illegally sourced.

In mid-2006, the Department supported a review by Australian timber importers and wholesalers of their existing policies and processes for determining the legality of their supplies⁴. The review also scoped a best practice approach for determining the legality of importers' and wholesalers' supplies that could meet their individual requirements.

In November 2006, the Government released a discussion paper, *Bringing Down the Axe on Illegal Logging – A Practical Approach*⁵, to outline the complex range of issues associated with illegal logging and to suggest some practical policy responses. The Department analysed public submissions on the paper and further consulted stakeholders to formulate this policy.



DEFINITION

Illegal logging operations may be defined as taking place when 'wood is harvested, transported, processed, bought or sold in violation of national laws'⁶. Illegal logging includes:

- obtaining access to forests by corrupt means;
- extracting timber without permission or from protected areas;
- cutting of protected species or taking more timber than an agreed limit;
- timber that has been illegally transported, processed or exported, either by smuggling or by using false documentation, including to avoid taxes and other charges; and
- situations where other domestic or international laws, such as human rights and international labour laws have been transgressed, or where armed groups have traded forest products at some point in the chain-of-custody.

However, as there is no universally agreed definition, the definition of illegal logging to be applied under this policy will be on a country-by-country basis in accordance with international norms and agreements⁷.

THE CHALLENGE

Illegal and unsustainable forestry practices are widely reported to occur in many developing countries from which Australia imports forest products⁸. Contributing factors include:

- rapidly growing demand for forest products;
- ineffective forest law enforcement and governance regimes;
- inappropriate land tenure arrangements; and
- inadequate resources and capacity to ensure compliance with laws and regulations within forest management institutions.

Corruption in both the public and private sectors has been identified as a key factor⁹ and this makes it extremely difficult for governments to implement strategies to eliminate illegal logging. The result is deforestation, reduced incomes for forest-dependent communities and losses in government revenues, all of which may constrain long-term sustainable forest development.

A key challenge in developing this policy is determining how to eliminate the supply of illegally sourced forest products traded in Australia in a way that is consistent with Australia's international trade obligations and without disadvantaging the legitimate supply and use of forest products. Producers, manufacturers and suppliers along the supply chain are likely to have different capacities and requirements to adapt to any policy changes. These will need to be recognised in implementing the policy to avoid infringing unfairly on those who trade in legally and sustainably sourced forest products.

¹ Information on Australia's Regional Forest Agreements can be found at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/rfa>.

² *A Stronger Economy, A Stronger Australia* – The Howard Government Election 2004 Policy – A Sustainable Future for Tasmania, p7.

³ Jaakko Poyry Consulting (Asia-Pacific) Pty Ltd, Overview of Illegal Logging, 2005.

⁴ Timber Development Association of NSW, 2006. *A review of the current practices employed by timber and timber product importers to determine the legality of supply*.

⁵ Commonwealth of Australia, 2006. *Bringing Down the Axe on Illegal Logging – A Practical Approach*.

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), 2005. *Best practices for improving law compliance in the forest sector 2005*, FAO Forestry Paper 145, FAO, Rome, p (xiv).

⁷ The above FAO/ITTO report states that a 'commonly agreed operational definition of legality itself is required to enable restriction of illegal timber trade. Countries should identify all elements required to define their standard of legality, taking into account international norms and local circumstances'.

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), 2005. *Best practices for improving law compliance in the forest sector 2005*, FAO Forestry Paper 145, FAO, Rome, p (xiv).

⁹ Environment and Agriculture and Rural Development Departments, Sustainable Development Network, The World Bank, Washington DC, 2007. *Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance – Addressing a Systemic Constraint to Sustainable Development*, Report No. 36638–GLB.



STRATEGY

Australia's approach to trans-boundary environmental issues in the forest sector is to support the development of voluntary approaches in partnership with stakeholders and to promote bilateral and multilateral engagement with timber exporting and secondary processing countries. This is the Australian Government's preferred approach to eliminating illegally sourced forest products traded in Australia. The treatment of imported forest products will be consistent with the treatment of domestic forest products, in accordance with Australia's international trade obligations.

The Government's goal is for all forest products traded in Australia to be sourced from sustainably managed forests. Sustainable forest management aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefits of present and future generations¹⁰. The challenge of achieving sustainable forest management in developing countries, however, depends on many factors, including recognition of the need for significantly increased financial resources and good governance at all levels¹¹.

As schemes for certifying forest products from sustainably managed forests are not yet widespread, particularly in developing countries, the amount of certified products available cannot meet world demand. However, many uncertified forest products are from countries with high forest management standards where timber is harvested legally and sustainably. To overcome the shortage of certified forest products, specific ways of identifying legally sourced forest products need to be developed as a first step towards achieving the Government's goal.

PARTNERSHIPS

Many of the issues associated with illegal logging are outside the control of the Government. Therefore, partnerships are required between all stakeholders. The Government will work with other national governments, industry, state and territory governments and non-government stakeholders to implement the measures and actions under the policy.

Through this partnership approach, the Government has consulted executive forest industry committees, such as the Forest and Wood Products Council¹² and the Forestry and Forest Products Committee¹³, which have agreed to assist with implementing a number of domestic policy measures at national and sub-national levels. The Government will work closely with importing and exporting countries through existing diplomatic, trade and overseas aid policies and programmes, as well as with regional and international non-government organisations to eliminate trade in illegal forest products.

¹⁰ United Nations Forum on Forests, April 2007. *Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests*.

¹¹ Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 - Progress towards sustainable forest management*, FAO Forestry Paper 147, Rome.

¹² The Forest and Wood Products Council (FWPC) provides a high level forum in which the Australian Government Minister and stakeholders in the forest and wood products industry may:

- (i) consult together;
- (ii) exchange advice and information;
- (iii) participate in the formulation of advice in relation to the Forest and Wood Products Action Agenda; and
- (iv) promote cooperation between different sectors of the forest and wood products industry.

¹³ The Forestry and Forest Products Committee (FFPC) is a forum of government officials under the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) and its Standing Committee. FFPC's objective is 'to develop and promote sustainable, innovative and profitable forestry and forest products industries, taking into account the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's natural resources'. Its two guiding priorities are:

- (i) input into national policy and strategy that affects or may affect forestry and the forest products industries; and
- (ii) interaction with the agendas of PIMC and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC).



POLICY CONTEXT

The Government's policy measures and actions are targeted at domestic, regional and international levels. They are collectively designed to eliminate trade in illegally sourced forest products along different parts of the timber production and supply chain – from the harvesting of trees through to the point-of-sale of forest products.

This multi-faceted approach, which has been widely accepted internationally, is required to address the complexity of global timber supply chains. The policy adopts a stepped strategic implementation process to achieve the Government's goal for all forest products traded in Australia to be sourced from sustainably managed forests. The approach focuses on verifying the legality of forest products as a first step. Actions for verifying legality will build on existing areas of activity that Australia has in common with other countries and organisations.

To ensure that the policy is implemented at a whole-of-government level, the policy's measures and actions have been developed to be consistent and, where appropriate, integrated with relevant Government policy and programme areas. These include Australia's national and international forest policies, initiatives of Australia's overseas aid programme and related international environmental efforts, including those consistent with the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate¹⁴ and the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme¹⁵.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The Government will provide funding and support for the policy through current government programmes. Opportunities for supporting complementary actions on the part of exporting countries under the Australian aid programme will be considered, consistent with the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate and the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme, where actions by exporting countries support sustainable forest management and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in developing countries. New funding arrangements will also be considered, as necessary.

POLICY GOVERNANCE AND REVIEW

The policy measures and actions described below are the Government's response to the complex range of issues surrounding international and domestic trade of illegally sourced forest products. To assist with the governance of policy, the Government has invited the Forest and Wood Products Council to provide strategic advice and guidance on the domestic policy measures and actions and to report to the Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation on progress with implementation. A policy review mechanism will be developed to regularly assess progress and effectiveness.

¹⁴ Information on the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate can be found at: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/international/forests/index.html>.

¹⁵ Information on the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme can be found at: http://www.daff.gov.au/forestry/international/asia_pacific_forestry_skills_and_capacity_building_programme



POLICY MEASURES AND ACTIONS – IN AUSTRALIA

MEASURE 1

Work with industry to develop a voluntary measure to establish the legality of imported forest products.

The aim of this measure is to develop and implement an uniform approach to trade in legally sourced forest products in Australia. The Government recognises that individual businesses may also choose to establish their own initiatives to demonstrate the legality of the source of forest products.

Action 1.1 – The Government will:

- support the establishment of a representative multi-stakeholder working group on the legality of imported forest products to coordinate and manage the development and implementation of industry policy, measures and actions, consistent with Australia's international trade obligations;
- promote the adoption of internationally accredited forest certification and chain-of-custody schemes that can demonstrate the legality and sustainability of forest products traded in Australia;
- work with relevant partners to conduct supply chain assessments, including assessments of exporting countries' legislative and regulatory frameworks, forest management systems and processes, timber supply chains and processes for verifying the legality and ultimately the sustainability of forest products;
- provide guidance to Australian importers on country-specific considerations relating to the importation of legally sourced forest products;
- report on the amount of imported forest products by type and value and the proportion of forest products imported into Australia with documentation certifying legality;
- strengthen links between the domestic, regional and international measures and actions of the policy by working with relevant partners; and
- establish a process for reviewing industry's performance in implementing the measures and actions outlined in this policy.



Action 1.2 – The Government will work with industry to:

- develop a risk-based approach to determine the legality of imported forest products, recognising that different product lines, product sources and supply chains have different levels of risk and therefore require different measures and actions for these to be effectively addressed;
- develop nationally consistent documentation templates and guidelines for verifying and reporting on the legality and ultimately the sustainability of domestic and imported forest products;
- provide information to overseas-based forest product exporters on Australian importers' measures for verifying the legality of imported forest products;
- provide information to Australian importers wholesalers and retailers on accredited legal forest product exporting companies or operations and the basis of their accreditation;
- propose a practical and achievable timeframe for forest products importers, wholesalers and retailers to implement the policy measures and actions; and
- seek support from Forest and Wood Products Australia¹⁶ to carry out eligible research and development activities related to establishing the legality of imported forest products.

¹⁶ Forest and Wood Products Australia is a public company with objectives related to this policy, including to increase the economic, environmental and social benefits to members of the industry and to the community in general by improving the production, processing, storage, transport or marketing of the products of the industry and:

- (i) to achieve the sustainable use and sustainable management of natural resources by the industry;
- (ii) to make more effective use of the resources and skills of the community in general and the scientific community in particular in relation to the industry;
- (iii) to investigate and evaluate the requirements for Research and Development and innovation activities in relation to the industry; and
- (iv) to investigate and evaluate the requirements for marketing and promotional activities in relation to the industry and its products.



MEASURE 2

Raise market and consumer awareness about illegal logging and the Government's policy.

The aim of this measure is to develop educational materials for importers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers to raise their awareness and understanding of illegal logging, the benefits of purchasing legally and sustainably produced forest products, and the actions they can take to tackle the problem.

Action 2.1 – The Government will:

- publish and explain the Government's policy to forest product importers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers;
- establish and maintain a website to provide information on illegal logging issues and progress on implementing the policy measures and actions;
- provide information on the legal basis of forest products imported from producer countries; and
- promote consumer awareness of Australia's legal frameworks for forest management and the environmental credentials of Australian forest products.



MEASURE 3

Develop guidelines for the public and private sectors to facilitate the purchase of forest products from legal and sustainable sources.

The aim of this measure is to encourage the adoption of public and private sector procurement policies and guidelines for the purchase of legally and sustainably sourced forest products.

Action 3.1 – The Government will:

- develop advice for Australian Government departments for the purchase of forest products from legal and sustainable sources, consistent with *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*¹⁷;
- provide advice to forest product suppliers regarding the Government's preferences for the supply of legally verified and sustainably sourced forest products, consistent with *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*;
- encourage the private sector to develop forest product procurement policies that complement importers' measures for verifying the legality of imported forest products, including purchasing guidelines that outline key issues to be considered;
- encourage state and territory government departments and agencies to purchase forest products from legal and sustainable sources, consistent with their procurement policies and guidelines; and
- work with the Primary Industries Ministerial Council and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council to develop a nationally consistent approach to procurement of forest products from legal and sustainable sources, commencing with a review of state, territory and local government procurement policies.

¹⁷ *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*, January 2005. Australian Government Department of Finance and Administration.



MEASURE 4

Promote certification and product chain-of-custody schemes for Australian forest products.

The aim of this measure is to promote the adoption of forest certification and product chain-of-custody schemes that provide proof of legality and sustainability of Australian forest products from the forest to point of sale and to ensure that both Australian and imported products are treated consistently.

Action 4.1 – The Government will:

- promote the adoption of independently accredited forest certification and chain-of-custody schemes within Australia through industry, forest certification bodies, state and territory governments and non-government organisations;
- develop a system to provide interim proof of legality of forest products not sourced from forests, either certified under an accredited forest certification scheme, or managed under a Regional Forest Agreement;
- ensure that the proposed system is cost effective and easily implemented by private forest growers in Australia and complements accepted forest certification schemes; and
- progress these actions cooperatively with state and territory governments through the Forestry and Forest Products Committee.



MEASURE 5

Foster and develop the Australian forest industry, particularly in areas such as high-value timbers and value-added products.

The aim of this measure is to support the expansion of the plantation sector and development of the timber processing sector, and to add value to our existing timber resources.

Action 5.1 – The Government will provide an enabling environment to:

- support the development of long-rotation plantations through the *Plantations 2020 Vision*¹⁸ and managed investment schemes;
- support research and development of value-added forest products in the native and plantation forestry sectors;
- match funding to Forest and Wood Products Australia for expenditure on eligible research and development; and
- encourage the development of new and innovative processing techniques for Australian forest timbers, as well as markets for innovative engineered wood products.

¹⁸ Information on the *Plantations 2020 Vision* can be found at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/forestry/plantations-farm-forestry/plantations/2020>



POLICY MEASURES AND ACTIONS – REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Measures 6, 7 and 8 address regional and international actions that may be undertaken bilaterally and multilaterally.

The Government will commit funds under overseas aid programmes to support the implementation of these measures and actions. This includes projects requested by recipient countries and agreed to under bilateral aid programmes, as well as relevant projects developed in conjunction with international organisations. The Government will also consider proposals for funding under Australia's Global Initiative on Forests and Climate and the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme that support its objectives of sustainable forest management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in developing countries.

The United Nations Forum on Forests has agreed that achieving sustainable forest management depends on achieving good governance at all levels. The White Paper on the Government's Overseas Aid Programme, *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*,¹⁹ and Australia's development assistance policy on anti-corruption, *Tackling corruption for growth and development*²⁰ highlight the importance of assisting developing countries, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region, to bring about a reduction in corrupt behaviour.

MEASURE 6

Work bilaterally and multilaterally with other countries, international organisations and the private sector to improve forest management practices and to increase the supply of legally sourced and certified forest products.

The aim of this measure is to assist countries that export forest products, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, to develop credible systems to verify the legality and sustainability of forest products, including through improved forest management and implementation of forest law enforcement and governance processes.

¹⁹ Australian Agency for International Development, April 2006. *Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability: A White Paper on the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Programme*.

²⁰ Australian Agency for International Development, March 2007. *Tackling corruption for growth and development: a policy for Australian development assistance on anti-corruption*.



Action 6.1 – The Government and industry will work with forest product exporting countries in the Asia-Pacific region and key importing countries to:

- develop methods to verify the legality of exported forest products including by:
 - strengthening support for development and implementation of forest certification and chain-of-custody schemes, particularly in countries where there has been limited progress with forest certification; and
 - developing templates and guidelines to establish the basis of legal verification of forest products;
- seek mutual recognition of standards for forest certification schemes, chain-of-custody schemes and consistency of processes for the assessment of these standards;
- improve sustainable forest management practices through transfer of expertise in sustainable forest management science and technology;
- support programmes to improve capacity for forest law enforcement and governance; and
- help collect and disseminate information about the legality and sustainability of forest products.

The Government will pursue these actions through existing ministerial forums, joint working groups, regional organisations, overseas mission networks and the Australian aid programme. Australia will coordinate closely with other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development governments, such as those of the United States of America and the European Union that are providing bilateral support to forest products exporters in our region to develop improved forestry governance arrangements, sustainable forest management practices and better legality verification regimes based on appropriate definitions of legality.

Existing bilateral processes relevant to forestry include:

- Indonesia-Australia Working Group on Agriculture, Forestry and Food Cooperation;
- Indonesia-Australia Joint Working Group on the Environment;
- Malaysia-Australia Agricultural Cooperation Working Group;
- Korea-Australia Forestry Cooperative Committee;
- Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement; and
- Australia Bilateral Development talks.

Australia will provide educational, scientific, technical and governance support to developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region for sustainable forest management, including through:

- the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate;
- the Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme; and
- Australia’s international development cooperation programmes in Asia and the Pacific managed through the:
 - Australian Agency for International Development; and
 - Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.



MEASURE 7

Increase collaboration with countries to help combat illegal logging in the Asia-Pacific region.

The aim of this measure is to develop stronger and better coordinated policies, strategies and action plans to combat illegal logging in the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia has committed to work through regional and global partnerships to fight corruption and illegal production and trade in forest products. As a Party to the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Australia supports strengthening law enforcement and related efforts to combat and eradicate illicit international trafficking in forest products in accordance with non-compliance as determined by relevant international processes²¹. Australia has also endorsed the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions²² and the United Nations Convention against Corruption²³.

Action 7.1 – The Government will pursue:

- a strategic and coordinated regional approach to address key illegal logging and sustainable forest management issues through the following regional initiatives:
 - East Asia Pacific Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial Process;
 - Asia Pacific Forestry Commission;
 - Asia Forest Partnership;
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community;
 - South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
 - Pacific Forum Secretariat;
 - Global Initiative on Forests and Climate; and
 - Asia Pacific Forestry Skills and Capacity Building Programme.

Action 7.2 – The Government will:

- continue to work with relevant partners to reduce the supply of illegally sourced forest products, including through promoting sustainable forest management;
- continue to work through the World Bank Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial Process to share information between customs agencies in the region;
- continue to improve existing methodology for tracking the illegal movement of finances and money laundering through the banking system; and
- support existing international networks for combating trans-national crime associated with trade in forest products.

²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Resolution 2007/L.3/Rev.1.

²² OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions – http://www.oecd.org/document/21/0,3343,en_2649_34859_2017813_1_1_1_1,00.html.

²³ United Nations Convention against Corruption – http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_convention_corruption.html.



MEASURE 8

Promote policies and strategies at international forums that encourage greater implementation of legal and sustainable forest management practices, forest certification and product chain-of-custody schemes.

The aim of this measure is to promote an effective and coordinated approach to the development of policies, strategies and actions to achieve sustainable forest management and legal trade in forest products on a global scale.

Action 8.1 – The Government will promote stronger and better coordinated policies and strategies on a global scale that:

- address issues of illegal logging and trade in associated forest products in a coordinated and effective manner;
- facilitate action on improving forest law enforcement and governance;
- promote the adoption of legal and sustainable forest management practices, forest certification and product chain-of-custody schemes; and
- raise awareness and promote the harmonisation of internationally recognised forest certification and chain-of-custody schemes.

The Government will implement these actions through the following international forums, organisations and agreements:

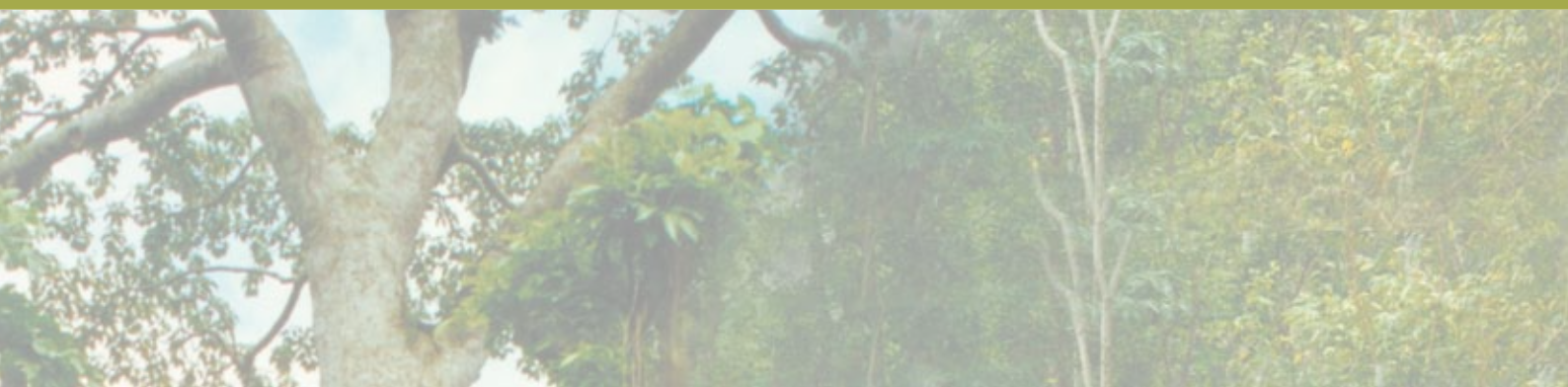
- United Nations Forum on Forests;
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;
- United Nations Economic and Social Council – Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations – Committee on Forestry;
- International Tropical Timber Organisation;
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;
- World Trade Organisation;
- World Bank Global Forest Alliance;
- Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade Processes; and
- Global Environment Facility.



CONCLUSION

This policy brings together many complementary government policies and programmes related to legal and sustainable forest management and forest industry development, both in Australia and overseas. It provides a comprehensive framework for eliminating illegally sourced forest products traded in Australia by promoting cooperative action at domestic, regional and international levels. While the successful implementation of the policy depends upon effective cooperation between the many stakeholders involved along the timber supply chain, the Government acknowledges its leadership role. Governance and review processes will enable the Government and stakeholders to assess progress after the policy is implemented. With the support of industry stakeholders, other government and non-government organisations, the Government is confident the policy will achieve its goal of eliminating trade in illegally sourced forest products within Australia. The policy is an important first step towards achieving the Government's goal of ensuring that all timbers sold in Australia are sourced from legally and sustainably managed forests.





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