

Welcome to FLA

Welcome to the first edition of the Forest Legality Alliance Newsletter. This is a quarterly publication for our members that contains up to date information about FLA initiatives and activities, news about illegal logging, updates from Chatham house and perspectives pieces on current issues. We are still in the process of strengthening and building our membership—if you haven't heard of us or aren't sure what we're working on check out our "what we're about" section. To our existing members—welcome to the team!

What We Do

The efforts of many emerging nations to protect biodiversity are undermined by various forms of *illegal logging*—felling of trees in contravention of national and local laws. To address these challenges, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) launched the Forest Legality Alliance in 2010 with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and private donors. The Alliance is an international, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to achieve better forest governance, sustainable management of forests and biodiversity conservation by reducing the demand generated by global market pressures for illegally harvested forest products, increasing transparency in forest product supply chains, and supporting supply chain efforts to deliver legal wood and paper.

The Alliance seeks to help all actors along supply chains—both large and small—understand and respond to emerging demand-side, forest-product legality policies by leveraging the professional expertise, market power, networks, and resources of Alliance members.



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Recent Events

MAY 26: Launch of the Forest Legality Alliance in Washington, DC

Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), leading environmental experts and industry leaders briefed journalists on the launch of our new initiative to curb trade in illegal wood. During the event, moderated by Jonathan Lash, president of the World Resources Institute (WRI), panelists also discussed new laws to combat illegal logging, including the amended U.S. Lacey Act.

The founding alliance members, who also form the current Industry Advisory Group (IAG), are the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), the Hardwood Federation, IKEA, the International Wood Products Association (IWPA), NewPage Corporation, the Retail Industry Leaders' Association (RILA), Staples Inc., and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

SEPTEMBER 7–8: Stakeholder outreach workshop, Honduras

The Alliance co-sponsored an event entitled "The Honduran Forest Sector in a Shifting International Landscape: Legality, Forest Management and Trade, and REDD." The event convened over 60 Honduran stakeholders from the private sector, government, and civil society organizations in presentations and discussion about changing legality requirements in global forest products markets, and how the country can consolidate efforts to combat illegal logging, promote legal trade and develop a national standard. The workshop, held in Siguatepeque, Honduras, was co-sponsored by the Rainforest Alliance and the Honduran Forestry and Conservation Institute (the national forest authority).

MAY 27: Inaugural meeting of the Industry Advisory Group

IAG founding members comprise companies and associations that took an early interest in the success of the Forest Legality Alliance. They will play a prominent role in publicizing the Alliance, demonstrating private-sector support for principles of forest legality, and advising WRI and EIA on the development of tools and guides that meet the needs of all supply chain actors.

JUNE 7: Outreach Workshop, Brazil

The Alliance co-sponsored a workshop in São Paulo with the Forest Footprint Disclosure (FFD) Project and the UK Timber Trade Federation. The event served in part as a launch of the FFD, an initiative to solicit and publish information regarding large companies' sourcing practices and their impact on tropical forests. The Alliance presented information about the Lacey Act and our efforts to mainstream legality considerations into supply chains, to an audience of major Brazilian forest products companies.

LACEY ACT SEMINAR

Held a seminar called “The Lacey Act: New Implications for Publishing and Paper Suppliers” at News Corporation’s New York headquarters to discuss sourcing and legality issues with industry leaders

THE GREENPRODUCTION ALLIANCE



In June, we were invited by Sony Pictures Entertainment on behalf of the Green Production Alliance, a consortium of entertainment companies, to give a presentation in Los Angeles about legal and sustainable sourcing of wood used to construct production sets in television

and film. About 60 people representing most major film studios, several television companies, and local lumberyards attended the presentation.

IMPROVING FOREST GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME RUN BY THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING (CIDT) IN WOLVERHAMPTON UNIVERSITY, UK

In the UK, we presented at the Improving Forest Governance Programme at the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) in Wolverhampton University. Forestry officials from a number of central and west African countries involved in the EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement program attended the presentation, which discussed the Lacey Act and the Forest Legality Alliance.

AUGUST 9-10: Vietnam

In August, FLA traveled to Vietnam to conduct a fact finding mission centered on the Lacey Act and issues related to illegal logging to help prepare for a workshop and outreach on Lacey in early 2011. We met with representatives for the government, the major wood products trade associations, chambers of commerce, industry leaders and international NGOs in both Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. There was great interest in learning more about the evolving global regulatory landscape around legality, and also in a workshop next year that would include some importers as well.

Upcoming Events

NOV. 9TH & 10TH: Second meeting of the Industry Advisory Group in Washington, D.C.

Tools

We have completed draft blueprints for the FLA Risk Tool and the Declaration Tool. The Risk Tool will help to increase the availability, quality, and organization of information about forest product supply

chains and legality; and support the process of exercising due care. A prototype of the tool should be available for member comment by the end of the year. The Declaration Tool will help importers understand, locate, and fill out the information required by PPQ Form 505, the Plant and Plant Product Declaration Form. The Declaration Tool will be ready for review by the end of November.

Recent Chatham House Report Reveals Surprising Trends in Illegal Logging

A recent study of a dozen countries has shown that actions taken by governments, civil society and the private sector over the last ten years in response to illegal logging and related trade have been unexpectedly effective.

According to the new piece published by the London-based think tank Chatham House, worldwide illegal logging has declined as much as 25% over the past decade, with reductions as high as 50%-75% in key producer countries. As a result of this decrease, up to 17 million hectares of forest are estimated to have been protected and 1.2 billion tones of CO2 emissions avoided within the last 10 years.

The report emphasized the role that recently passed legislation such as the U.S. Lacey Act amendments and the European Union’s new prohibition on the import of illegal wood play in motivating importers of wood to ensure their product comes from viable sources. Coupled with the efforts of consumer countries, enforcement actions in producer countries such as Indonesia and Brazil are increasingly helping to reduce the prevalence of illegal practices in some of the world’s most threatened forests, leaving \$6.5 billion worth of trees standing that can now bring revenue through legal logging practices.

In the U.S., the Lacey Act amendments are steps in the right direction-but there is significant room for improvement in creating laws that more comprehensively address the issue.

Sam Lawson, one of the study’s authors, states that continued legal and social action is necessary to stem the ongoing practice of illegal logging: “Illegal logging is still highly profitable, and those who benefit from it will be open for business as long as they can act with impunity.”

Conclusions point to the fight against illegal logging requiring a comprehensive overhaul of government policy and regulation in producer countries, with a growing number of countries prohibiting the import and sale of illegally sourced wood. To ensure such prohibitions are effective and encourage broader improvements, importing countries also need to expand cooperation with source countries in order to continue their sustainable growth.

[READ FULL DOCUMENT](#)

News and Upcoming Events from Chatham House

The Forest Legality Alliance is proud to be working with the Chatham House / Royal Institute for International Affairs to bring you information and updates from Europe and around the world. For a decade, Chatham House has provided the world's best compilation of news, research and presentations on illegal logging and efforts to combat it. Our newsletter and FLA website will contain a regular feature on Chatham House's work and the latest on European timber trade policy and markets.

Illegal Logging: International News

ILLEGAL LOGGING INDICATORS

Chatham House (Energy, Environment and Development Program) launched "Illegal Logging and Related Trade: Indicators of the Global Response" on 15 July.

The authors used a comprehensive set of standardized indicators to measure the scale and effectiveness of the global effort to combat illegal logging and associated trade. The indicators cover awareness of the issue, government policy development and implementation, private sector policy development and implementation, and what is known about the extent of illegal logging and associated trade.

The report assesses the response and progress in 12 countries – five producer countries (Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia and Malaysia), two processing countries (China and Vietnam) and five consumer countries (Japan, the USA, the UK, France and the Netherlands).

Upcoming Events

ILLEGAL LOGGING AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The [Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Number 16](#) took place on 24–25 June 2010. The agenda, meeting report and presentations are now available. The meeting included updates on the EU's FLEGT initiative and in particular, progress with VPAs in central Africa, Ghana and Indonesia, sessions on REDD and its interaction with FLEGT, and on China, together with research, country and private sector updates. The seventeenth meeting in the series has been penciled in for 27–28 January 2011. If you have any suggestions for improvement, topics that you would like addressed, or speakers that you would like to hear please do contact Alison Hoare at alhoare@chathamhouse.org.uk. The meeting is open to all, and there is no charge for admission. However, pre-registration, which will take place nearer the time, is essential.

CHATHAM HOUSE — UN-REDD MEETING: Monitoring Governance for REDD+ implementation 18-19 November 2010, Rome

This is a follow-up to the Chatham House - UN-REDD workshop on [Monitoring Governance Safeguards in REDD+](#) which took place on 24-25 May 2010. The meeting will focus on operational guidance and takes place at FAO headquarters. This is an invitation only event.

Global Updates

ASIA

[Chinese traders fear new import restrictions on illegal timber](#) [09/02/2010]

[Sumalindo Arrests in Indonesia](#) [06/24/2010]

[Madagascar's Assault on Forests](#)

AFRICA

[Despite pledge to crack down, illegal logging continues in Madagascar's rainforest parks](#) [09/06/2010]

[Facing moratorium and criticism in Indonesia, Sinar Mas looks to Liberia for new palm oil opportunities](#) [09/05/2010]

[Timber Mafia in Pakistan](#) [08/17/2010]

LATIN AMERICA

[Declarations and Due Care: Insights from Another Lacey Case](#) 10/5/2010

[Is Amazon.com contributing to forest destruction?](#) [09/14/2010]

[Amazon at Lowest Point in Recorded History](#) [09/04/2010]

[Guatemala Rainforest Threatened by Drug Trade](#) [07/17/2010]

NORTH AMERICA

[Loggers Try to Adapt to Greener Economy](#) [03/28/2009]

[Logging Moratorium is Extended](#) [05/28/2010]

[USFS Report: 'Ecosystem Services' at Risk From Suburban Development](#) [8/19/2010]

EU

[EU set to ban illegal timber by 2012 \[06/17/2010\]](#)

[Timber Retail Coalition launched to curb illegal logging \[04/16/2010\]](#)

[Logging Spells Danger for Europe's Last Primeval Forest](#)

OCEANIA AND PACIFIC

[Environmentalists win decades-long war with logger in Tasmania \[09/10/2010\]](#)

[Conditions closed on FSC national standard for forest certification in Papua New Guinea \[06/11/2010\]](#)

[DNA testing catches up with illegal logging trade](#)

In the Spotlight:

MAYBE IT'S THE MOTORCYCLE THAT'S THE PROBLEM?

There are very few times in life that you get to see a priest on a motorcycle. Fewer still that same-said priest zips off from a training session on REDD and forestry law back to his school for Indigenous youths located in the heartland of the Amazon, next to a prison and down the road from the rapidly growing city-center of Iquitos, Peru.

Meet Brother Paul McAuley. Striped button-down shirt neatly tucked in, ropes of semilla (seeds, for the grigos) necklaces laced around his neck, this man is one of the most outspoken individuals there is when it comes to campaigning for indigenous rights in Peru.

[READ FEXULL STORY](#)



The FLA newsletter will host one guest writer every quarter. If you are interested in contributing to our next newsletter with information and stories concerning illegal logging, the Lacey Act, International forestry policies, or any other related issues, please contact fionamulligan@eia-international.org.

If you are interested in learning more about our organization, becoming a FLA member and continuing to receive this newsletter, please contact us at CClark@wri.org or visit http://www.wri.org/fla/about_membership.php.