



WRI INDONESIA

Addressing Legal Formality Hindrances in Implementing Wood Identification Technologies through Protocol/ Guideline Development

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Recent Policy Developments which supports the utilization of Wood ID technologies

01

Scientific evidence for Environmental Cases (Supreme Court Decree No. 1/2023-NEW)

02

Speedy yet Accurate Investigation tools (Law No. 18/2013)

03

Verification of Timber Levies (Government Regulation No. 12/2014)

04

“..Certification Bodies might use laboratory testing to ensure the traceability of timber products..” (Provisions on SVLK- NEW)

LEGAL FORMALITY HINDRANCES- SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE QUESTION

Laboratory
Accreditation- ISO
17205

Protocols or Guidelines
(e.g. UNODC
guidelines) which
adopt local Context

Lack of Expert
Witnesses- Limited &
Risks of being sued by
the perpetrator

DNA PROTOCOL/ GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT ON WOOD FORENSIC TECHNIQUES



Why DNA?

Some of wood reference databases already identified (e.g. Merbau (*Intsia bijuga*), ebony (*Diospyros celebica*), Meranti merah (*Shorea leprosula*), Bengkirai (*Shorea laevis*))

DNA protocol as a pilot project and hopefully can be emulated for others (DART TOF-MS and stable isotope)

CONTENT OF THE PROTOCOL/ GUIDELINES

01

CHAPTER I:
INTRODUCTION

02

CHAPTER II:
PRELIMINARY
HANDLING ONCE
ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL
TIMBER WAS FOUND

03

CHAPTER III:
MANAGEMENT AND
HANDLING OF
TIMBER EVIDENCE
FOR DNA ANALYSIS

04

CHAPTER IV: TIMBER
EVIDENCE
HANDLING AT LABS

05

CHAPTER V:
LABORATORY
STANDARDS FOR
CONDUCTING
FORENSIC ANALYSIS

MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING OF TIMBER EVIDENCE FOR DNA ANALYSIS



- Chain of Custody (bringing samples from crime scene to laboratory) procedures must be rigid.
- Assigned and trained investigator/ enforcement officials can take the samples.
- Have to minimize the possibility of samples being contaminated

TIMBER EVIDENCE HANDLING AT LABS



- Procedures to extract DNA from the samples
- Analytical Method
- The making of DNA reports

CHALLENGES WITH PROTOCOL/ GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

- Enforcement officials have to ask the right question.
- Finding the right sampling number or “the magic number” for evidence collection.
- Written lab results vs Expert witness testimony.

NEXT STEPS FOR PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Focus Group Discussions with Enforcement Agencies, Scientists and other related stakeholders.
- Dissemination of the protocols to sub national agencies.
- Trainings for enforcement officials and pursue lab accreditations.



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Thank you!

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