PROJECT LEAF

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FORESTS

An INTERPOL project combating illegal logging and organized forest crime

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME
Acknowledgements

- Project LEAF is financially supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD)

- INTERPOL is also working closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its GRID Arendal centre in Norway
Recognises the danger posed by illegal logging to the world’s forests – habitat destruction, species extinction, and climate change

Supports countries in working towards forest sustainability and the management of carbon emissions

There is a direct relationship between illegal logging and deforestation rates
Relationship between corruption and suspected illegal forest activities

Figure 1  
Relationship between corruption and suspected illegal forest activities

Source: Seneca Creek Associates and Wood Resources International 2004

Conclusions

Illegal forest activities can take place when wood is harvested, transported, processed, bought or sold in violation of national laws. Operations in the forest sector include a flawed policy and legal framework, minimal enforcement capacity, and illegal activities.

Bubble size represents the volume of suspect roundwood, including imports.
Project LEAF – Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests

- 15-30% of all timber is from illegal sources
- 90% of the timber in some key producer countries is illegal
- A football field is clear-cut by illegal loggers every 2 seconds.
- The US, China, the EU and Japan import 80% of the world’s illegal timber
Project LEAF – Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests

- Up to US$30 billion per year in lost revenue to governments.
- Suppresses global timber prices by 7-16%.
Illegal logging not restricted by national borders

- Target those at the top of forest mafia – by following the money
- Illegal logging and the international trade in illegally harvested timber is a serious, organized international crime
- Engage different government agencies, including police, customs, forestry authorities and financial and tax regulators.
Objectives

- Project LEAF supports a strong, coordinated, international law enforcement response to illegal logging and associated forestry crime
- Targets criminals responsible for corruption, smuggling and violence
- Illegal logging and the international trade in illegally harvested timber is a serious, organized international crime
Activities

- Awareness raising – to make forestry crime a priority
  - Build law enforcement capacity
  - Harmonize laws
  - Clarify mandate and coordinate work between agencies
  - Tackle corruption
  - Clarify land tenure
Activities

- Capacity building
  - Training programmes
  - Manuals and guides

- Provide strategic analysis
  - Develop a global picture of illegal logging including source regions, transit routes, destinations, modus operandi, and key players

- Support cross-border police operations
THANK YOU!

For further information on Project LEAF:

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