



NEWS RELEASE

Australia supports tropical forest law enforcement

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, 18 December 2012: ITTO is pleased to announce a grant of AUS\$ 2.000.000 from the Australian Government for the ITTO thematic programme on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET). The grant was announced on Friday, 14 December 2012 by Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig and is part of Australia's 'Illegal Logging: Regional Capacity Building Partnership' to combat illegal logging and to promote timber legality verification.

TFLET is one of five ITTO thematic programmes geared towards achieving ITTO's objective to promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests, and to promote the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests. A key problem addressed by the programme is the improvement of national forest law enforcement and governance in ITTO member countries including the improvement of transparency and effective management of supply chains to increase the trade in legally produced tropical timber from sustainably managed forests.

Achieving verified legal compliance and sustainability of forest operations is an enormous challenge for tropical timber producers. The grant will allow ITTO, through its TFLET programme to continue providing support to participating countries to make progress towards legal compliance and sustainability and to implement the commitments made at international and regional levels relating to forest governance and combating illegal logging and illegal timber trade.

The ITTO thematic programmes operate through periodic calls for proposals with the next call for proposals under TFLET scheduled for early 2013.

For more information on the TFLET thematic programme or on ITTO in general, visit www.itto.int.