

THEMATIC PROGRAMME ON
FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE

Programme Profile

RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

Illegal activities in the forest sector continue to add to the degradation of forests and undermine the contribution of the forest sector to employment generation and social and economic development and poverty alleviation. An unknown volume of timber is illegally felled, processed and traded. Forest operations conducted outside the law may under-value the resource on which they are based, resulting in the degradation of the resource and a lack of optimal socioeconomic benefits for local people. Several factors contribute to the occurrence of illegal timber harvesting, such as an ineffective policy and legal framework, a lack of enforcement capacity, insufficient data about the forest resource and illegal operations, and a high demand for cheap timber. Cooperation between producer and consumer countries is needed.

The International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), negotiated in 2006, includes commitments to: strengthening the capacity of members to improve forest law enforcement and governance and address related trade in tropical timber; improving the marketing and distribution of tropical timber and timber product exports from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources; contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation; and recognizing the role of forest-dependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management and developing strategies to enhance the capacity of these communities to sustainably manage timber-producing forests.

In 2007 the Council approved a pilot of the TFLET Thematic Programme. The objectives of that pilot, as well as the projects and activities under implementation, will be integrated into the Thematic Programmes to be developed under this profile, taking into account the administrative arrangements put in place for the existing programme.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the Thematic Programme is to improve national forest law enforcement and governance in tropical ITTO member countries in order to enhance and diversify international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed forests and to help alleviate poverty in those countries.

PROGRAMME STRATEGY

The strategy to reach the objective contains several elements: (i) respond to the needs of producer members and local communities to improve forest governance; (ii) enhance the transparency and effective management of supply chains; and (iii) public-private partnerships between governments, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations and local communities are enhanced to create strong networks to discourage illegal forest activities.

ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

- Enhanced capacity of forest-dependent and local communities to improve governance and sustainably manage their forests in order to alleviate their poverty;
- Enhanced capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises in harvesting, processing and handling timber from legally and sustainably managed sources;
- Increased market opportunities for legally and sustainably produced timber from tropical forests by supporting business-to-business initiatives;

- Enhanced capacity of trade associations and civil-society organizations, in particular those representing local groups and workers in the forest sector, to be involved and actively participate in the development and implementation of policies and programmes on tropical forest management and timber trade;
- Policies and programmes to improve forest law enforcement and governance, contributing to the implementation of international objectives as agreed in the ITTA, UNFF, FAO, CITES, CBD and UNFCCC, as well as relevant partnership arrangements;
- Information exchange among stakeholders as well as the identification of commonalities and horizontal elements in policies and programmes to improve forest law enforcement and governance; and
- Better enforcement of forest laws and regulations through chain of custody and tracking and tracing systems such as fingerprinting methods and improved verification and monitoring procedures.

The approach to be taken in this proposed Thematic Programme will complement ITTO's work on policy and transparency by intensifying its work with government, private-sector and civil-society actors. The programme will encourage and facilitate partnerships between government agencies, civil-society organizations and private companies to, on the one hand, increase the involvement of local communities in forest management, production and benefit-sharing and, on the other, improve market access for forest products.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES

The Thematic Programme will enhance public-private partnerships between relevant stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and civil-society organizations, taking into account the specific concerns and needs of local and indigenous communities depending heavily on the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest resources as well as the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products.

The main actors in the forest sector are national government forestry agencies, national government forest law enforcement agencies, national-level civil-society, and private-sector organizations, companies, local cooperatives and community administrations, and small and medium-sized forest enterprises.

The intermediary beneficiaries are a diverse group of national-level and local organizations. The primary target group comprises national governments. The secondary target groups are the trade associations and civil-society organizations, the private sector and research institutions. The ultimate target groups are the producers and the end-users. The programme will be demand-driven and flexible, so that potential beneficiaries can, in consultation with ITTO and other stakeholders, determine the exact nature of the activities they undertake through the programme.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total indicative budget of the Thematic Programme is US\$15 million, of which US\$12 million would be for country-level activities and US\$3 million for regional and international-level activities.

TFLET pilot phase already pledged	US\$ 4,800,000
Balance	US\$ 10,200,000
TOTAL	US\$ 15,000,000

POTENTIAL DONORS

The governments of the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway and Korea have already pledged contributions to the thematic programme pilot phase totalling US\$4.8 million.