

10th October 2019



FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

International Forum Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains - A Forest Products Industry Initiative -

***22–23 October 2019
St Regis Hotel Shanghai, China
(24-25 Huzhou, China)***

Background

Recent scientific research shows that the gap between global demand and supply of timber and wood products is expected to widen significantly by 2050 as a result of continued deforestation and forest degradation and a sharp increase in societal needs for wood, fibre and energy from rapidly growing populations, especially in the tropical regions. Simultaneously, productive forests and forest products need to play a pivotal role in helping mitigate climate change through protecting carbon stocks, removal of CO₂ from the air and increasing carbon storage and the substitution of non-renewable materials and energy. According to the IPCC's Special Report of October 2018, global climate goals cannot be achieved without a rapid transition towards a bio-based and de-carbonized economy which has to be based on legal and sustainable production and consumption along the entire supply chain.

In response to the above mentioned challenges and changing demands in consumer markets underpinned by legality and sustainability requirements, an increasing number of forest-based industries have taken initiatives to adopt responsible production and sourcing practices. Nevertheless, many producers, especially in tropical countries, are facing challenges in meeting such demands due to a lack of incentives and enabling frameworks, limited technical, financial and human capacities and resources to meet and document compliance with legality and sustainability. There is an urgent need to develop 'green' markets domestically and internationally, enhancing direct connectivity between producers and consumers. This will also promote a better understanding of demand, supply and constraints whilst strengthening the trust between them, through all of which climate and other benefits can be derived.

Objectives

This International Forum **“Together towards Global Green Supply Chains - a Forest Products Industry Initiative”** intends to promote the advancement of legal and sustainable supply chains which will incentivize good production practices, contribute to responsible purchasing practices while also leading to additional benefits of poverty alleviation, creation of employment, economic growth, income generation etc. whilst complementing climate change mitigation.

Specifically, the Forum intends to:

- Raise the profile of productive forests and their contribution to climate change mitigation and sustainable development;
- Review the role of private sector for climate change and development;
- Identify issues relating to legality and sustainability in global wood supply chains and define the need for building capacities for sustainable forest management and deforestation-free practices;
- Discuss challenges and opportunities in demand and supply in global wood supply chains;
- Encourage the international trade in legal and sustainable timber and wood products supply chains globally;
- Make recommendations for promotion of partnership in global green wood supply chains now and into the future.

An outcome of the Forum will be to build a joint LSSC-GGSC Business Exchange Platform to facilitate business information exchange and continued collaboration between the Forum Organisers and supporting organisations in future between increasing numbers of timber producers, buyers, the processing industry and wood product market representatives nationally and internationally.

Partnerships and Strategy

ITTO is in the process of implementing its Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains (LSSC) Programme with support from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). In doing so, ITTO will work in close collaboration and partnership with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), in **particular members of the Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative**, including governments and international partners and, most importantly, trade organizations and the private sector at large to promote the sustainable production and consumption of legal and sustainable wood and forest products in international and domestic markets. Such an approach will ensure that productive tropical forests are sustainably managed and the supply chains and trade flows from the forest to the end consumer complies with legal/sustainability requirements

Building on its mandate, normative guidance and track record in implementing sustainable management and utilization of tropical forests, industrial development, trade and market transparency, strengthening forest governance, and capacity building, ITTO is in a unique position to help its members, the private sector, forest communities and other stakeholders

achieve several of the UN SDGs 2030 and support the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 24 Ministerial Declaration on Forests for Climate.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), mandated by the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA 2006), advocates the powerful and essential contribution of private sector action to complement ongoing efforts to achieve global **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. ITTO's launch of the Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains (LSSC) Programme is aimed at incentivizing 'green' markets, creating enabling governance frameworks, building human and technical capacities for good practices on the ground and connecting committed consumers and producers.

The proposed strategy applies a bio-/circular economy approach with a high potential of substituting materials such as steel, aluminium, concrete and plastics, which are non-renewable and require large amounts of fossil fuels to produce. Etc Etc

ITTO is partnering with the Global Green Supply Chain initiative (GGSC), launched in Beijing in June 2018 with an initial number of 12 Chinese leading wood trading and processing enterprises and other relevant members. These companies are committed to build a global GGSC Platform by partnering with international and domestic producers and consumers with the objective to increase sustainable wood sourcing and production and to ensure a sustainable wood supply in response to international consumer market demand for legal, sustainable and certified timber and wood products.

Forum Organizers and Collaborators

This International Forum is an outcome of the ITTO LSSC programme, financially supported by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany (BMEL). The Forum will be co-organized by ITTO, the China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA), the Centre for International Forest Products Trade (CINFT) of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA) and the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT). The Forum will be supported by the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF), CTWPDA Hardwood Sub-Committee, the Shanghai Timber Trade Association (STTA) and the GGSC Secretariat. Additional financial and in-kind contributions from the European Union (EU), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Initiative (SW4SW), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the French Development Agency (AFD), the German Development Bank (KfW) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) are acknowledged for different themes under discussion at this International Forum.

Date and Venue

The **International Forum** will be held in Shanghai, China, **22–23 October 2019** at the ***St. Regis Shanghai Hotel, 1008 West Beijing Road, Jing'an 200041, Shanghai, China.***

Expected Participants

- ITTO members;
- GGSC members and future members;
- CTWPDA members with an interest in LSSC-GGSC;
- ATIBT members, including the forest concession and wood processing industry from

- Africa;
- Amazon Basin and Southeast Asia: Forest and wood industry and timber trade federation representatives;
 - GGSC donors and potential donors;
 - Related stakeholder organizations including government representatives, researchers, academics, representatives from various forest and timber trade initiatives from all regions and civil society;

Sponsorship

Select speakers and panellists for the International Forum will be sponsored while limited sponsorship will be available for participants from selected developing countries.

Business-to-Business meetings (B2Bs)

B2B meetings between producers, importers and wood suppliers are highly encouraged and can be arranged upon request. **B2B meetings will be held in Shanghai 22–23 October** during the International Forum and also in Huzhou **25 October** during CTWPDA's Global Hardwood and Wood Flooring Conferences (**VENUE: Dongwu New Century Grand Hotel Huzhou, 555 Laodong Road, Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province, China**). Please note that Thursday 24 October and Saturday 26 October are intended for field visits.

Languages

The working languages of the GGSC International Forum will be English, French, Spanish and Mandarin, with simultaneous interpretation.

Detailed information on venue, registration procedures and alternative details for hotels in Shanghai & Huzhou will follow shortly.

Contact Points and E-mail/telephone numbers for Registrations (following further notification from co-organisers):

ITTO Secretariat: Ms. YANG Ling Yun - yang@itto.int; tel: +81 (45) 223 1110 Ext 46

CTWPDA: Mr. WANG Zhengjie – zhengjie.wang@cnwood.org; tel: +86 (10) 6865 6288

GGSC Secretariat: Ms. HU Fan - fannyinbj@hotmail.com; tel: +86 (10) 6288 8626

ATIBT: Ms. Manissa TANHCHALEUN - manissa.tanhchaleun@atibt.org; tel: +33 (1) 4394 7264