ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

Updates on Developments of Legality Frameworks (2024-2025)

As of 1 October 2025

ITTO Secretariat

ITTC-61
27 - 31 October 2025
Panama City, Panama

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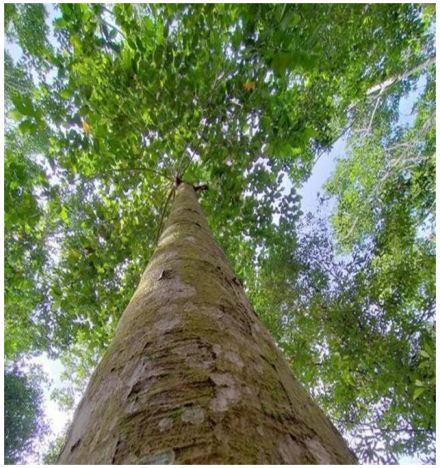
- EU Regulation on Deforestation
- Lacey Act Amendments
- Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act
- Japan Clean Wood Act

Attention on developments:

- Korea
- Ghana
- CITES



DR)

- **EUDR Timeline:**
  - 31 May 2023, adopted.
  - 29 June 2023, entry into force.
  - November 2024, postponed application by one year.
  - September 2025, further postponement proposed by EC for another year.
  - December 2026, new targeted implementation date.
- **EUDR and EUTR** will exist in parallel from 30 Dec 2025 to 30 Dec 2027.
- **Scope**: EUDR applies to a wide range of timber products, including sawn timber, wood-based materials, paper and furniture.
- **Who** needs to fulfil EUDR: Operators includes importers, exporters, forest owners, wood processors.
- **EUDR requirements**: Deforestation-free, Legally produced, Due diligence.

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- In November 2024, the European Parliament (EP) adopted creation of country category with “no risk” on deforestation in addition to the existing three categories of “low”, “standard” and “high” risk.
- On 15 April 2025, EC published new guidance documents, simplifying the implementation of EUDR:
  - Due diligence can be carried out **annually** instead of for each shipment.
  - Company groups can appoint authorized **representatives** to act on their behalf.
  - Due diligence statements can be **reused** for goods that are re-imported.
  - Simplified requirements for companies further **downstream** in the supply chain.
- On 22 May 2025, EC released first list of country risk classifications :
  - 140 countries were categorized as low risk
  - Only 4 countries were classified as high risk: Belarus, Myanmar, North Korea and Russia.
  - Other countries were regarded as standard risk.
  - Dynamic benchmarking process, first review scheduled for 2026.

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- On 9 July 2025, the European Parliament adopted a motion to reject Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1093, which defines the methodology for ranking countries according to their risk of deforestation under EUDR.
- On 23 September 2025, EC proposed again delaying enforcement of EUDR. The new implementation date would be late December 2026.

VII

- USDA-APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Announces Phase VII of the Lacey Act Enforcement Schedule in March 2023.
- On 31 May 2024, the APHIS published a Federal Register Notice announcing enforcement of the Phase VII of the Lacey Act's import declaration begins on **1 December 2024**.
- Phase VII includes a broad range of items covering products of 26 Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) chapters, including plywood, laminated wood, tools, natural cork, bamboo and rattan, footwear, and more.
- There are two types of penalties, civil and criminal, for Lacey Act violations.
- On **1 December 2024**, APHIS **began implementing Phase VII of the Lacey Act** provisions for certain imported plant and wood products.
- From **1 January 2026**, APHIS will no longer accept paper submissions of Lacey Act Declaration file.

Act

- **Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012** came into force in 2013.
- The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation was **amended** in 2023 to reflect updates to the Country Specific Guideline (CSG) and State Specific Guidelines (SSGs).
- On 9 September 2024, the Illegal Logging Prohibition **Amendment Bill 2024** was passed by the Australian Parliament for strengthening measures to prevent illegal timber trade.
- On 3 March 2025, the Amendments to the llegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (Act) and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024 (Rules) came into effect.
- The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 has been replaced by the Rules.

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- **Japan Clean Wood Act (CWA)** came into force in May 2017, which is based on a voluntary-third party registering system.
- CWA promotes the use of legally-harvested wood products by creating provisions for entities may apply to a **registration body.**
- CWA was **revised** on 8 May 2023.
- **Guideline** of the CWA Due Diligence System was released in September 2024 by Japan Forestry Agency.
- In March 2025, detailed **instructions** for implementing CWA were released.
- On 1 April 2025, the **Amended CWA came into force** (requesting upstream wood-related business entities and wood-related importers to collect information on raw materials, confirm legality, communicate the result of legality confirmation, etc.)

Act

- The **Korean Revised Sustainable Use of Timber Act** entered into force in Sept 2017.
- The **official implementation** of the **Revised Act** started from 1 Oct 2019.
- The Act was **further partially revised** on in Jan 2024 and came into force on 24 July 2024.
- The **Revised Enforcement Rules** came into effect in Sept 2024.
- Enforcement Decree of the Act was issued by President on 11 March 2025.

- On 15 August 2025, Ghana agreed with EU at for system "**go-live**" on to demonstrate the issuance of FLEGT License.
- Test shipment to selected EU destinations activated to identify potential bottlenecks for redress.
- on 27 August 2025, Ghana and EU at the 13th joint session (JMRM/Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism) announced 8 October 2025 as the **official date** for EU to receive FLEGT License from Ghana.
- Ghana's FLEGT License **Format-**Attributes for global markets
  - Security features
  - Trade information
  - Discussion with EU to include QR code for key CoC and Geolocation.
- Ghana became the **first African country** and **second in the world** to issue FLEGT license for timber exports

ITES

- On 30 Oct 2024, CITES announced Uzbekistan will host CITES CoP20 in 2025.
- On 20 Nov 2024, Turkmenistan Joins CITES, as the 185th party to the convention.
- On 24 Jan 2025, CITES launches Sponsored Delegates Project (SDP) for CoP20, which scheduled in November 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- On 3-8 Feb 2025, the 78th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC78) was heled in Geneva. The Committee agreed to finalize the draft report on Brazilwood (Paubrasilia echinata) bows for consideration by the CoP.
- On 27-31 May 2025, the first-ever CITES Global Youth Summit (CGYS) was held in Singapore.
- Today, over 800 tree species, mainly commercial timber species are listed in CITES Appendices I, II, and III.

Thank You!