



Timber Legality Verification Schemes

A research programme of the Chinese Academy of Forestry in collaboration with ProForest

Update No. 3, April 2010

In this issue, we provide an update on:

Activity 1 Market requirements for legal timber and timber products, in particular the requirements of the EU Market

Output: Report on analysis of market requirements for legal timber and timber products in English and Chinese

Activity 2 Inventory of legality verification schemes

Output: Report on comparative study on timber legality verification schemes in English and Chinese

What has been done so far?

1. Produced final draft report on activity 1 market requirements for legal timber and timber products. This report is being translated into Chinese, awaiting sign off by the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA).
2. Carried out desk review on legality verification schemes covering voluntary legality verification (such as those run by certification bodies), mandatory legality verification (such as VPA) and other NGO initiatives.
3. Contacted verified operations in African and South East Asian countries to gather information on the practical experiences in implementing legality verification.
4. Produced first draft report on activity 2 to review legality verification schemes.

What's next?

5. Final report on market requirements for legal and sustainable timber products will be available in May. The report will be available in English and Chinese in printed version and electronic copy.
6. Finalise report on comparative study on legality verification schemes, to be completed by the end of May.
7. Meeting in early May in China to discuss progress and next steps.



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background

The Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information (RIFPI) of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) is leading on a 'Timber Legality Verification Schemes' project in collaboration with ProForest. The objective of this project is to provide detailed proposals to the Chinese Government on the establishment of a practical timber legality verification scheme which suits the forest products trade in China, and thereby promoting the utilisation of legally produced timber products in international trade. Financial support is being provided by the UK Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and International Development (DFID) together with the State Forestry Administration of China. This project started in October 2009 and aims to finish by July 2011. During these two years, RIFPI and ProForest will carry out 6 activities including desk study and interviews on market requirements in the EU, an inventory of legality verification schemes, workshops, pilot testing and policy recommendations.

If you have any comments or questions please contact

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