

Endorsed 15 April 2024



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

EGILAT Policy Theme 3 - Promoting Legal Timber Trade through Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration for Effective Implementation and Enforcement

Purpose: Consideration

Submitted by: Informal Policy Theme Discussion Group

**Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade
01 April 2024**

Draft APEC EGILAT Policy Theme 3 (2024-2025)

Policy Theme 1 explored the broad goal of advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products with an emphasis on challenges and opportunities for industry and the private sector. Policy Theme 2 took the next step to navigate legal timber by 1) outlining approaches timber legality frameworks and measures among APEC economies and 2) raising awareness around tools and technology that could be used to enhance timber legality.

Results from project activities under Policy Theme 2 demonstrated that stakeholders appreciated the opportunity to learn about APEC economy initiatives and consider ways to implement similar measures in their own economy. Project participants also valued capacity building activities but emphasized the need for more specific training and technical assistance across a variety of identified common elements for timber legality.

Although a portion of Stocktaking Survey respondents indicated legality frameworks or measures were easy to understand, a sizeable amount still indicated that they were challenging to implement. Member economy representatives and their stakeholders have expressed the need to increase coordination within and between economies to enforce timber legality measures and promote the trade and distribution in legal forest products.

Policy Theme 3 builds upon these findings and adds value by promoting legal timber trade through enhanced stakeholder collaboration for effective implementation and enforcement. Under this theme, EGILAT will work to:

1. Provide opportunities for member economy stakeholders to form connections, learn from each other, and work together to address shared challenges and opportunities for combating illegal logging and associated trade.
2. Strengthen collaboration and coordination across public sector/government agencies within member economies to improve implementation and enforcement of timber legality frameworks, requirements, and other measures.
3. Foster engagement with key industry and civil society stakeholders, as well as relevant APEC sub-fora.
4. Encourage further updates, distribution, and use of existing EGILAT resources.
5. Develop capacity building and training around the “common elements for timber legality,” as described in the Final Summary Report for EGILAT01 2022A, along with other areas of need identified in the Stocktaking Survey.

Possible activities to support the policy theme may include:

1. Focused stakeholder workshops with law enforcement and customs officials.
2. Sharing member economy case studies around domestic and interagency coordination for implementing and enforcing timber legality regulations. These case studies can help members identify common challenges, best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities in their respective economies.

3. Participating and presenting in Anti-Corruption and Transparency Network (ACT-NET) meetings and/or identifying ways to support enforcement networks for timber legality.
4. Identifying opportunities for shared discussions, workshops, and/or project work with relevant sub-fora such as the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG), Sub-Committee on Customs and Procedures (SCCP), and/or the Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG).
5. Exploring opportunities to promote further distribution and use of the Compendium of Resources. Identify ways to raise awareness about the resource among key stakeholder groups.
6. Developing specific workshops or training sessions divided by common elements for timber legality and/or areas of need identified by the Stocktaking Survey. The Stocktaking Survey identified interest from respondents in capacity building in the following categories:
 - Traceability and Transparency
 - Regulatory Frameworks: Domestic and Foreign
 - Due Care/Due Diligence
 - Wood Identification
 - Export Requirements.

Common elements for timber legality EGILAT may wish to explore for additional capacity building include, but are not limited to:

- Legality standards
 - Transparency and stakeholder involvement
 - Traceability, supply chain control, data interoperability, and validation
 - Government oversight and enforcement; supply chain data authorization and verification
 - Policy response
 - Facilitating access to markets
 - Political will, anti-corruption efforts, accountability, and capacity-building.
7. Sharing updates on efforts to engage stakeholders, including MSMEs, women leaders in science and technology, and Indigenous Peoples. EGILAT may wish to engage with the Policy Partnership on Women and Economy (PPWE) and/or the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) in this regard.

Additional Guidance: This policy theme is intended to serve as an umbrella for work in EGILAT through 2025, and all Members are encouraged to put forward concept notes or take on leadership roles that support any of the areas of work outlined in this document. When feasible and appropriate, members may propose to address these areas of work in plenary sessions in order encourage the effective use of the group's time and resources. This policy theme supports EGILAT's Terms of Reference (2022-2025) and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2023-2027).