



Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA FLEG) Ministerial Conference Preparations

The ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference will soon take place on November 22-25, in *St. Petersburg, Russia*, at the Hotel Pribaltiyskaya <http://www.pribaltiyskayahotel.ru/comm.html>.



Participation: As of November 11, 45 Governments have confirmed participation in the conference and twelve ministers and five deputy ministers are scheduled to attend. Five private sector associations, 15 companies, twelve local NGOs, and twelve international NGOs (identified through a coordination and representative selection process) will also participate in the conference. International organizations and bodies including the FAO, UNECE and UNFF will also attend. *Participation in the ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference will be by invitation only.*

ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference Agenda: The conference agenda, developed by the International Steering Committee (ISC), is designed to maximize opportunities for stakeholder groups to provide input to the governmental negotiations. The ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference will open on Tuesday, November 22, with remarks by Yuri Trutnev, Minister of Natural Resources of

the Russian Federation and other keynote speakers. This will be followed by government negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Action Plan and the civil society and industry dialogue. Ministers will arrive mid-day on Thursday, November 24, to review the draft negotiated document. The Ministerial Segment will be held Friday, November 25, with ministers expected to endorse by acclamation the ENA FLEG Declaration and Indicative Action Plan. The agenda is available at:

<http://www.worldbank.org/enafleg>

Elements of a Draft Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Action Plan: The latest version of the document "Elements of a Draft Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Action Plan" (often referred to as "Draft #4 October 20, 2005") was publicly released on October 24, 2005. This document, which will serve as the basis for initial negotiations at the Ministerial Conference, incorporates comments from government, industry and NGOs on the previous version (Draft #3). Draft #5 as well as a compilation of all comments (with authors anonymously attributed) are available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/enafleg>

Comments on the Draft #4 should be sent to the ENA FLEG Secretariat (enafleg@worldbank.org). *These comments will be made publicly available in their original form at the Ministerial Conference itself.* In addition, non-governmental stakeholders are encouraged to provide input by providing national delegations with comments, ideally through a multi-stakeholder process (e.g. national workshop).

4th Meeting of the ENA FLEG International Steering Committee (ISC): On October 12, 2005 the ENA FLEG ISC met for the 4th time via video-conference. The objective of the meeting was to review the status of preparations for the Ministerial Conference and provide guidance on any related matters. ISC member governments participating included Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Commission and World Bank. The ISC will meet on the eve of the Ministerial Conference and every morning during the conference to provide guidance as necessary. The minutes of ISC meetings are available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/enafleg>

ENA FLEG Preparatory Processes at National and Regional Levels

China Inter-agency Meeting in Preparation for ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference: On October 27-28, 2005 the Chinese State Forest Administration hosted an inter-agency meeting to prepare for the ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, and customs agencies. International experts were invited to provide an overview of international and national perspectives on the FLEG ministerial processes and issues related to forest governance, illegal logging and associated trade. Representatives from Chinese NGOs and academia were invited to participate in several sessions of the two-day meeting, which included a detailed review of the Draft #4 of the Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Action Plan. NGOs and academia representatives held parallel sessions to the closed inter-agency discussions.

Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and IUCN Workshop: On October 31, 2005, more than 75 representatives of government agencies, forest industry, the Russian State Duma, NGOs and academia met at the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade in Russia. Recommendations from the meeting are currently being finalized and will be ready for presentation at the ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference. Contact: Victor Teplyakov, IUCN, at Victor.Teplyakov@iucn.ru

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Forests of Europe (MCPFE) Workshop on Combating Illegal Harvesting of Forest products and Related Trade in Europe: The MCPFE is a high-level political initiative that has developed as a dynamic process towards the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe. The MCPFE conducted a workshop on November 3-4, 2005, in Madrid, Spain, to provide an overview of political processes that consider the issue of illegal logging (Africa FLEG, Asia FLEG, the G8, and others). The discussion focused on the political commitments and legal instruments in place, and provided an overview on existing information, research and regulations. The three main questions that the conference attempted to address were: what are the main types and causes of illegal logging in Europe?; what is the legal interpretation of "illegal logging" in Europe?; and what issues under the "illegal logging theme" should the MCPFE forum focus on? Further information can be found at www.mcpfe.org or by contacting m.buszko-briggs@lu-warsaw.pl

The Forest Dialogue (TFD) Industry and NGO Preparatory Event: The Forest Dialogue (TFD) conducted a two-day meeting of civil society and industry representatives on November 2-3, in St. Petersburg. The meeting resulted in a co-chair summary which outlines issues that participants felt should be considered by ENA FLEG governmental delegates during the negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Action Plan. Discussion during the preparatory event focused on recommendation for government action and the continued partnerships between industry and civil society to address illegal logging and associated trade.

Participants emphasized implementation of the Indicative Action Plan as a critical component and identified the formulation and implementation of time-bound National Action Plans as a key element for follow up in this regard. Additional concerns expressed revolved around the issues of social justice and equity, and ensuring a close alignment between the economic, social and environmental elements in the final Ministerial Declaration and in the Indicative Action Plan. The co-chair summary can be found at www.w.theforestsdialogue.org. Contact: Gary Dunning, Executive Director, TFD at info@theforestsdialogue.org

FLEG Related Research

Forest Product Exports from the Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia to China: Status and Trends by Alexei Lankin (published through Forest Trends). This study focuses on the status and trends of Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia forest product exports to China. It includes a description of, and summary statistics on, the volumes and values of forest product exports to China. Available in English and Russian at <http://www.forest-trends.org>

Chatham House Research: Current Chatham House research includes: an analysis of a range of initiatives and schemes which bring 'verified legal' timber into the UK and EU markets; the identification of indicators that will make it possible to measure the impact of the FLEGT Action Plan; assessments of current domestic legislation in EU member states; and analysis of investment due diligence and public procurement policies. For further information on any of these studies please email Jade Saunders on jsaunders@chathamhouse.org.uk.





The Forest Governance Learning Group

The forest governance learning group is an alliance of independent agencies working in Africa and Asia which exchanges learning and develops ideas on forest governance – and then helps to make them work for practical, just and sustainable forest use. A shared belief motivates the group: that forestry can contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainability, but only with good forest governance – the right leadership, institutions, policy decisions and practical systems.

In recent years much progress in forest governance has been made in many countries: national policy has opened up to more stakeholders; rights of forest-dependent people have strengthened; and good forestry has shown potential to trigger wider governance reform. Yet while lists of prescriptions for governance are getting longer by the day, practical approaches and real preparedness to implement them are in short supply – the challenge is not what to do,

but how to do it. FLEG processes provide major opportunities for making practical progress.

The Forest Governance Learning Group is aiming for improved governance of forest resources in ten countries in Africa and Asia. Four main outputs are expected over the period 2005-2009:

- Poverty reduction strategies, national forest programmes, decentralisation programmes and related processes enable improved forest governance;
- Illegal and corrupt forestry that degrades livelihoods is reduced through the adoption and spread of practical approaches to improve forest governance;
- Forestry enterprise initiatives and private sector associations comply with the law and spread practical approaches to improve forest governance; and
- Ownership, access rights, policy and management frameworks are improved to support local control and benefit from forestry.

In this work the Group aims to contribute to the Africa and Asia FLEG processes and to the European FLEG and Trade (FLEGT) process in its partnerships with African and Asian countries. Activities involve participatory analysis, learning and training events, network building, supported uptake of governance tools, and taking direct opportunities for governance reform. Inter-country capacity-building work and engagement with international policy processes is also expected. For more information on partners and country groups, visit the Forestry governance learning group website: <http://www.iied.org/NR/forestry/projects/forest.html> Contact for further information: James Mayers, Head of Natural Resources Group, IIED at james.mayers@iied.org

Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector: This publication from FAO, produced in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and edited by Arnolodo Contreras and Elisa Peter, provides an overview of some experiences with efforts to foster better forest law compliance. Drawing from eleven country case studies, it analyses available knowledge and identifies a set of best practices which decision-makers may wish to apply to reduce illegal operations in the forest sector. The publication is available for order from the FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/icatalog/inter-e.htm>

FLEG Related Announcements

EU FLEGT Action Plan: On October 25, 2005 the EU Member States adopted measures to fight illegal logging and the trade in illegal timber. The measures consist of voluntary partnerships to support and promote governance reform in countries badly affected by illegal logging and a regulation that sets up a legally-binding licensing scheme with partner countries to ensure that only legal timber from these countries is imported into the EU. More information available at www.illegal-logging.info

Workshop on Fighting Illegal Logging through Implementation of Anti Money Laundering Laws: This workshop, scheduled to take place in Jakarta on November 16, 2005, is sponsored by Pusat Pelaporan dan Analisis Transaksi Keuangan (PPATK), the Indonesian Financial Intelligence Unit and other related agencies, with financial support from the World Bank. The workshop will bring together participants from a range of agencies (PPATK, Ministry of Forestry, Attorney General's Office, Coordinating Ministry on Political and Security Affairs, National Police and others) to develop an increased understanding of financial aspects of how anti-money laundering laws can help combat illegal logging. Participants will identify opportunities for inter-agency

and inter-sectoral cooperation in intelligence, investigation and prosecution of illegal logging and related money laundering offenses. The workshop will help identify options and possibilities for future World Bank-supported technical assistance and capacity building support. For further information, contact Bill Magrath, World Bank, at: wmagrath@worldbank.org.



Timber Theft Prevention: Technical Experts Meeting: The World Bank will host a technical meeting of experts on November 22-24 in Cebu, Philippines, to share experiences on how forest land managers can prevent timber theft at the forest management unit (FMU) level. It will draw upon the many examples of relevant concepts and approaches from other industrial and commercial settings, such as manufacturing, warehousing and retailing. The meeting will focus on policies and institutional arrangements which are needed to make theft prevention at the FMU level effective and sustainable, including regulatory requirements for explicit security planning, security training and education for regulators and resource managers, and establishment of "Hot Lines" and other complaint reporting mechanisms. A draft document commissioned by the World Bank will be reviewed at the workshop. Copies of the draft document and further information can be obtained from Bill Magrath, World Bank, at wmagrath@worldbank.org.

Customs and Law Enforcement Workshop: Promoting Cooperation Among Customs Authorities and Other Relevant Agencies in East Asia to Reduce the Trade of Illegal Wood Products:

The Government of the Philippines will host a workshop in Cebu on November 28-30 of customs practitioners which aims to promote cooperation among and between customs, law enforcement, and other relevant authorities in the East Asia region to reduce the trade of illegal wood products. A key objective of the workshop is to identify opportunities for enhanced enforcement that builds on national and current bilateral initiatives that also help enhance the East Asia FLEG and the Asia Forest Partnership processes. The workshop is cofunded by DFID, GTZ and the World Bank. Further information can be obtained from Neria Andin, neria_andin2003@yahoo.com; or HK Chen, hkchen@pc.jaring.my

Forthcoming Chatham House International Update: Chatham House will host its seventh "international update" meeting January 19-20, 2006. The two-day meeting will cover a range of issues including developments with the FLEGT timber licensing scheme, the latest thinking on public procurement policies, recent private sector initiatives, NGO campaigns and a range of research reports. To receive invitations to these events please subscribe to the Chatham House mailing list at www.illegal-logging.info. Participation in these events is free but registration is essential. To register please email Gemma Green on ggreen@chathamhouse.org.uk.

Indonesia Forest Sector Transparency Initiative: A preparatory meeting held December 12 2005 followed by a two-day work shop in January 25-26, 2006 is planned to initiate Indonesia's Forest Sector Transparency Initiative. The purpose is to increase awareness about the need for transparency, share experiences on developing forest sector transparency and mechanisms, mobilize a constituency and operational team to support and undertake necessary actions; and deliver on Indonesia's Asia FLEG commitment to transparency. Contact for more information: Mario Bocuccucci, World Bank, at mbocuccucci@worldbank.org

Preliminary Announcement for the Second Meeting of the EAP-FLEG Task Force and Advisory: The Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to host the second working meeting of the East Asia Pacific (EAP) -FLEG Task Force and Advisory Group in Manila in February 2006. The upcoming meeting will allow DENR to share information and progress, identify and address challenges, and strategically chart the future course for the EAP-FLEG initiative. A tentative agenda focuses on: sharing information on progress made by countries towards the FLEG objectives; promoting forest sector transparency and enforcement; build upon the national dialogue on transparency in Indonesia; and elaborating a strategic framework and action plan. Contact: Mario Bocuccucci, World Bank, at mbocuccucci@worldbank.org

Internet Resources for Further Information

The illegal logging website: The illegal logging website (www.illegal-logging.info) is hosted and edited by Chatham House and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). It features regularly updated news, a large document archive, notice of Chatham House and other events and a detailed links section. Recent additions to the site include IFM reports from various monitors, and papers on the impacts of the FLEGT Action Plan and public procurement policies. For more information contact Jade Saunders at jsaunders@chathamhouse.org.uk.

FLEG News Production

This edition of FLEG News was prepared by the World Bank FLEG Secretariat. Many thanks for contributions from Chatham House, Forest Trends, IIED and IUCN. ***Inclusion in the FLEG Newsletter does not imply that the activity has been endorsed or financed by the sponsors of any of the regional FLEG processes. Inquiries regarding FLEG News or submissions for future editions should be sent to enafleg@worldbank.org. Contributions will be reviewed and included as appropriate and feasible.***