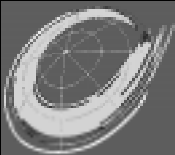




Illegal Logging: Annotated Bibliography

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Birch trees, North Carelia, Finland. Photograph by Kalervo Ojutkangas.



Introduction

The purpose of this bibliography is to offer a brief overview of various global illegal logging issues and definitions. Illegal logging is now occurring at an unprecedented rate; the frequency of illegal logging throughout the world is on the rise and there is no evidence to indicate this trend will change in the near future soon. It is therefore of crucial importance that the issue of illegal logging is highlighted and that appropriate steps and programs are undertaken to change the global trend towards increased illegal logging activities.

The occurrence of illegal logging in boreal regions is on the rise particularly in the Russian Far East and the Baltic region. Few organisations are working on illegal logging issues in the boreal, and the information available is limited. There is especially a lack of general information for public use. This document therefore aims to bridge information gaps and provide environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) the information needed to develop efficient boreal forest protection strategies and campaigns.

Illegal Logging: Defined

Listed below are a sample of the many definitions of 'illegal logging'. Some vary quite considerably but most vary only in detail.

1. Illegal logging and forest crime are defined as the harvesting, transporting, processing, buying or selling of timber in violation of national laws. It lies within wider forest-related crime which includes both large- and small-scale theft of timber, breaking of licence agreements and tax laws, as well as issues of access to and rights over forest resources, corruption, and poor management. Its impacts are also far-reaching and can lead to increased fragmentation and conversion of forests, illegal mining, poaching of forest wildlife, haphazard human settlement, and and greater incidence of forest fires.
WWF – International.
2. 'Cuttings without permits or unsanctioned cuts, cuttings carried out by local residents for personal needs, cuttings carried out by residents or mobile teams for subsequent sale, cuttings carried out by companies near officially developed sites or in the distant areas that are seldom visited by supervised agencies, felling on the places of officially completed selective felling, including officially discovered and aborted unsanctioned cuttings, felling caused by the unauthorised construction of non-forestry facilities. Licensed but illegal forest felling operations: issuing permits for felling in areas where felling is prohibited or not envisioned in current legislation, issuing logging permits with violations of the existing procedure for permit issuing, or without the assessment of the real logging capacity without violations of current legislation, entering deliberate amendments into forest management documentation, formally allowing cuttings otherwise prohibited, intentional mistakes of forest inventory, forest cuttings carried out with abuse of the existing legislation.'
Greenpeace Russia.
3. 'Illegal Logging takes places when timber is harvested, transported, bought or sold in violation of national laws. The harvesting procedure itself may be illegal, including using corrupt means to gain access to forests, extraction without permission or from a protected area, the cutting of protected species or the extraction of timber in excess of agreed limits. Illegalities may also occur during transport, such as illegal processing and export, misdeclaration to customs, and the avoidance of taxes and other charges'.
FERN Controlling imports of illegal timber, options for Europe.

4. 'The term Illegal Logging is used to refer to timber harvesting-related activities that are inconsistent with national (or sub-national) laws. Illegal and corrupt activities in the forest sector can span the entire industry from wood harvesting and transport, to industrial processing and trade. Illegal cutting includes logging inside protected areas or outside -tected areas or outside concession areas. Logging within allocated concessions can be illegal if it does not conform to the law. For example, cutting restricted species, or over the allowable limit, or before the concession or licence is active, constitutes an illegal act. Other types of illegal activities include under-reporting the amount cut, false reporting of the species harvested to avoid higher taxes, the illegal transport of timber, and the poaching of wildlife in areas opened up by timber-cutting. Corruption can occur at many levels, from the issuance of licences and concessions to local law enforcement'.

International Timber and Trade Organisation (ITTO)

A Global Issue

There are 6 geographically defined regions used by the media and environmental NGOs to describe the occurrence and distribution of illegal logging.

These major regions are defined as:

- Russian Far East (RFE) and Siberia
- South east Asia
- Central Africa
- The Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania & Estonia)
- South America (Amazon)
- North America (Boreal Belt)

Each of these regions defines illegal logging differently. There is also varying levels of information on illegal logging in each region. Some regions such as North America have little to no information pertaining to illegal logging. The level of involvement by governments, NGOs and communities also varies among regions. There are also large discrepancies in the level of media and public exposure of illegal logging in each region.

The main types of Illegal Logging and associated problems in each region are described in the following table:¹

¹ Corruption includes forgery, taking and providing bribes, and organized crime.

Organisations involved in illegal logging issues

Each organization varies in the extent to which they are involved, the issues they focus on with regards to illegal logging and the regions of the world they operate in. Presently, the majority of organisations involved in illegal logging are concentrated in tropical regions. There are, however, several organisations working in the boreal region. Below is a list of organisations engaged in work on illegal logging and a list of selected resources available. This list, in alphabetical order, is by no means exhaustive and is intended as a guide.

GENERAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Forest Integrity Network (FIN) www.transparency.org/fin
 FIN is an innovative and timely new initiative to combat corruption in use of the world's forests. It is a multi-stakeholder global coalition seeking to bring together non-governmental organisations, governments, international organizations, the private sector and academics to deal with corruption and its impact on sustainable forest use. FIN seeks to foster information exchange on programs, models and best practices to fight forest corruption. It is based on its members' shared concern for sustainable forest use and for the welfare of those most dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods.

Illegal-Logging.Info www.illegal-logging.info
 This site aims to provide a central point of information about efforts to stem illegal forest practices and the associated trade in forest products. It was developed by the Sustainable Development Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs and provides one of the best overviews on illegal logging issues.

FERN www.fern.org
 Widely involved in projects and reports related to illegal logging including a trade campaign and forest certification schemes to name two.

Focus (as regards illegal logging): European Union Policy Development and FLEGT process.

- Selected Resources:
- EU illegal timber imports, (2001)
 Statistics compiled by Forest Monitor on behalf of FERN.
 - Controlling Imports of Illegal Timber: Options for Europe, (2002)
 Compiled by FERN and RIIA
 - To Buy or Not to Buy, (2004)
 Compiled by FERN
 - Controlling Imports of Illegal Timber: Options for Europe (2002)
 Compiled by FERN and RIIA
 - To Buy or Not to Buy (2004)
 Compiled by FERN
 Summary: This report examines the timber procurement policies of EU member states and the U.S.
 - Export Credits: Fuelling Illegal Logging (2002)
 Compiled by Chantal Marijnissen
 Summary: This briefing details the relationship between ECAs and illegal logging and argues that in order to address the problem of illegal logging the EU cannot limit its activities to the forestry sector, but must address the financial sector as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (ENGOs - CONTINUED)

Forests Monitor www.forestsmonitor.org

Aims to contribute to the debate about sustainable forest management by collating and disseminating information on companies operating in the forestry sector around the world. They produce a series of reports on illegal and unsustainable forestry, and participate in the Africa FLEG process.

Focus: Russian Far East, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Papua New Guinea etc.

- Selected Resources:
- Briefing Document: Means of combating illegal logging & WTO implications (2001) Compiled by Forests Monitor.
 - The Wild East: Trees in Transit (2001)
Compiled by: BROCC, Friends of Siberian Forests and Forests Monitor

Forest.ru www.forest.ru
(English and Russian)

A website maintained by the Russian NGOs Forest Club which covers issues related to Russian forests, their conservation and sustainable utility. The latest forest news and publications in Russia are available here.

Focus: Russia.

- Selected Resources:
- Principles of Responsible Timber Trade of Russian Wood (2002)
Compiled by: Biodiversity Conservation Center, Greenpeace Russia, Socio-Ecological Union International and WWF RPO.
 - The Russia-China Timber Trade, (2000)
Opening a Dialogue between Russian, Chinese, and International Forest Activists about How to Protect Siberia's Forests, Chita, Conference

Friends of the Earth - Japan www.foejapan.org/en/

A website maintained by the Russian NGOs Forest Club which covers issues related to Russian forests, their conservation and sustainable utility. The latest forest news and publications in Russia are available here.

Focus: Russian Far East.

- Selected Resources:
- Plundering Russia's Far Eastern Taiga: Illegal Logging, Corruption, and Trade Report by Bureau for Regional Oriental Campaigns, (Vladivostok, Russia), Friends of the Earth-Japan (Tokyo, Japan) and Pacific Environment & Resources Center, (Oakland, California).

Greenpeace - Russia www.forest.ru

A website maintained by the Russian NGOs Forest Club which covers issues related to Russian forests, their conservation and sustainable utility. The latest forest news and publications in Russia are available here.

Focus: Russia.

- Selected Resources:
- Last Intact Forest Landscapes of Northern European Russia (2001)
Mapping of intact forest landscapes in northern European using high-resolution satellite images – methods and results.

² In all cases this pertains to the organisation focus as related to the boreal region and illegal logging.

Greenpeace - U.K.

www.saveordelete.com

A website maintained by the Russian NGOs Forest Club which covers issues related to Russian forests, their conservation and sustainable utility. The latest forest news and publications in Russia are available here.

Focus: Malaysia, Indonesia, Cameroon, Brasil, Finland.

- Selected Resources:
- Finland: forest crime file (2003)
Destroying forests, destroying livelihoods.
 - UK timber traders and illegal logging (2003)
How UK timber traders such as Finnforest, Montague L Meyer continue to fuel the destruction of Indonesia's last rainforests.
 - Partners in Crime, (2003)
A Greenpeace investigation into the links between the UK and Indonesia's timber barons.

Pacific Environment

www.pacificenvironment.org

Pacific Environment protects the living environment of the Pacific Rim by strengthening democracy, supporting grassroots activism, empowering communities, and redefining international policies.

Focus: Russia, China, Japan

Sierra Legal Defence (SLD)

www.sierralegal.org

A website maintained by the Russian NGOs Forest Club which covers issues related to Russian forests, their conservation and sustainable utility. The latest forest news and publications in Russia are available here.

Focus: Russia.

- Selected Resources:
- Clearing the Forest, Cutting the Rules (2002)
Compiled by Sierra Legal Defence Fund and Earthroots
This report highlights the problems associated with the proliferation of large clearcuts in Ontario's public forests, which violate a legally binding Environmental Assessment Board decision.

Taiga Rescue Network

www.taigarecue.org

- Selected Resources:
- The Finnish Forest Industry in Russia: On the thorny path towards ecological and social responsibility (1999)
Compiled by: The Finnish Nature League and Taiga Rescue Network.
 - Illegal Forestry and Estonian Timber Exports (2004)
Compiled by: Estonian Green Movement and Taiga Rescue Network
 - Illegal Logging Factsheet (2004)
Written by Taiga Rescue Network as a concise introduction to the topic of Illegal Logging.

ENGOs (CONTINUED)

World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

www.wwf.org

- Selected Resources:
- The features of illegal trade and logging in the Baltic Sea region (2003)
Compiled by: WWF Latvia.
Illegal Logging concerns have mainly focused on tropical forests, but several initiatives have been launched to address this problem. However, illegal logging has also been reported from regions outside the tropics, in particular from countries with economies in transition, for instance, countries in the Baltic Region and Russia.
 - Logging and Trade of Acquired Timber: Legal regulation procedures and ways to evade them (2003) Compiled by: WWF Latvia
Globally the problems caused by illegal activities involving timber are becoming more and more topical. They diminish the power of law and cause substantial losses to nations in the form of uncollected taxes and other payments.
 - Illegal Logging in Northwestern Russia and Export of Russian Forest Products to Sweden (2003) Compiled by: WWF Sweden
This publication includes a survey of illegal logging in Northwestern Russia, the origin of about 75% of Russian timber exports to European countries.

GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Protects endangered species of wild fauna and flora (including about twenty tree species) through a system of export and import licences. www.cites.org

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): The overarching framework convention for the protection of biodiversity. www.biodiv.org

European Union: European Commission: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT process), europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/flegt/intro

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF),

www.un.org/esa/forests

INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

www.itto.or.jp/live/index.jsp

Consists of the countries representing 95% of world trade in tropical timber. Currently undertaking a series of studies on illegal logging and timber trade statistics. Volume 12 No. 1 of the ITTO newsletter, Tropical Forest Update, focused on Illegal Logging and forest crime.

EDUCATION, FINANCIAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

European Forest Research Institute

www.efi.fi

It is an independent non-governmental organisation conducting European forest research that includes illegal logging.

Forest Trends www.foresttrends.org
Selected Resources: - Strategies to combat Illegal Logging and forest crimes (2001)
US Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Forest Trends and USAID

World Bank www.worldbank.org
Selected Resources: - Law compliance in the forestry sector – An Overview (2002)
Compiled by: World Bank Institute.
- Illegal logging and the adoption of reduced impact logging (2001)
Authors: Durst, P. B. and Enters, T.

Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) www.riia.org
RIIA is a independent policy research institute whose Sustainable Development Programme focuses on a range of international energy, environment and business issues, including international environmental crime, illegal logging and the control of trade in illegal timber.
Selected Resources: - Intergovernmental Actions on illegal logging, options for intergovernmental action to help combat illegal logging and illegal trade in timber and forest products (2001)
Compiled by RIIA

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) www.cifor.cgiar.org
CIFOR is an international research and global knowledge institution committed to conserving forests and improving the livelihoods of people in the tropics.

Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org
Selected Resources: - Logging off, Mechanisms to stop or prevent industrial logging in forests of high conservation value (2001).
Gullison, T.; Melnyk M. & Wong, C., Union of Concerned Scientists, Center for Tropical Forest Science, Smithsonian Institution.

World Resources Institute, www.wri.org
WRI is an environmental think-tank, based in Washington DC, 'that goes beyond research to find practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives. WRI works on forests, grasslands and drylands research projects.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

The Timber Mafia, 2002, Broadcasted by ABC television
Summary: Four Corners investigates illegal logging, a highly organized crime that not only destroys entire eco-systems and increases global warming but also deals ruthlessly with anyone standing in its way. The website includes an interactive map, interviews, videos and a forum.

Global Witness www.globalwitness.org
Summary: Global Witness is one of few non-governmental investigative organisations working to expose the link between natural resource exploitation and human rights abuses. They operate in areas where environmentally destructive trade is funding conflict or human rights violations. They collect the evidence and use it to achieve long-term change.

Selected Resources: - Suggested Reading: Resources, Conflict and Corruption (2002)
Compiled by: Global Witness.

