The Forest Legality Alliance

An International Initiative to Support Trade in Legal Forest Products

www.forestlegality.org

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FOREST LEGALITY ALLIANCE

Outline

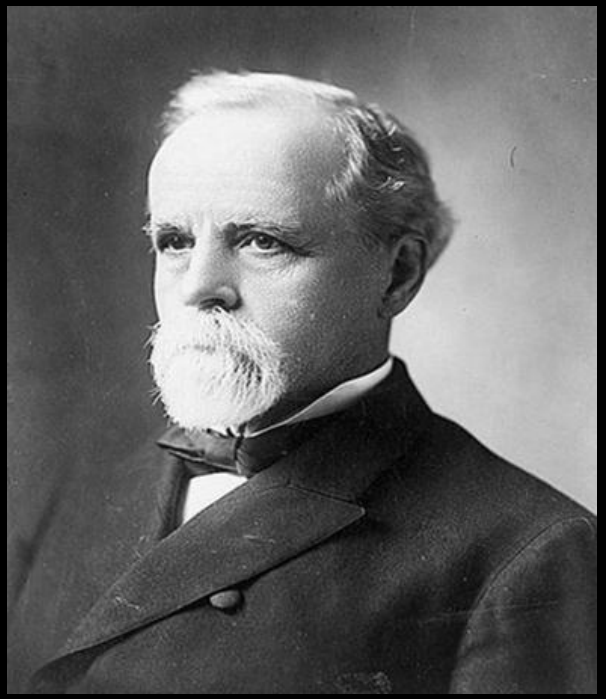
- Forest Legality Alliance: Context
  - Lacey Act amendments of 2008
- The Forest Legality Alliance
  - Who we are
  - What we do
- Minimizing risk: resources and technologies

Context: Information gaps on demand *and* supply sides

- New legislation
  - Lacey Act (U.S.)
  - Illegal Timber Regulation (European Union)
- Move from voluntary to mandatory: the need to mainstream legality, risk considerations
- Access to ALL information is key
- Need for targeted USA based information for legality.

Context: The Lacey Act amendments

- Prohibits all U.S. trade in plant products – including lumber, paper, and furniture – illegally sourced from any country, state, or tribal territory
- Requires import declaration
- Establishes penalties for violations of the Act



Representative John F. Lacey (R-IA)

"Due care"

Due care means

that degree of care which a reasonably prudent person would exercise under the same or similar circumstances.

Due care is applied

differently to different categories of persons with varying degrees of knowledge or responsibility.

Due care is not

simply about obtaining documents. Rather, it is a flexible concept that continues to develop in the U.S. legal system.

Implementation through partnership

WRI

WRI is an environmental think tank that goes beyond research to find practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives.
www.wri.org

EIA (U.S.)

Protecting the environment with intelligence.
www.eia-global.org

USAID

USAID is the government agency providing U.S. economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years.
www.usaid.gov

Implementation through partnership

- Launched in June 2010

- Secretariat (WRI, EIA & USAID)
- Members: any organization or business with a stake in having or providing information to support legal forest product supply chains
- Industry Advisory Group

We are:

- A clearing house for disseminating information and resources
- Legality-only orientated
  - No auditing , certification or verification of membership
  - No claims on part of its members
- A creator of appropriate tools to fill risk assessment and policy knowledge gaps
- A consensus and collaboration platform

We are not:

- A certification accreditation body
- A certification or verification body
- A stepwise programme towards certification
- An official US government voice on all things related to Lacey Act

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Activities

Demonstrate feasibility of compliance

Research and analyses to:

- Document and describe best practices
- Identify problems, opportunities, and unintended effects

In both, large- and small scale, community-based supply chains

Equip supply chains

- Information website
- Risk information tool
- Local information
- Lacey declaration tool
- Manuals and videos
- Procurement guide

Raise awareness, training

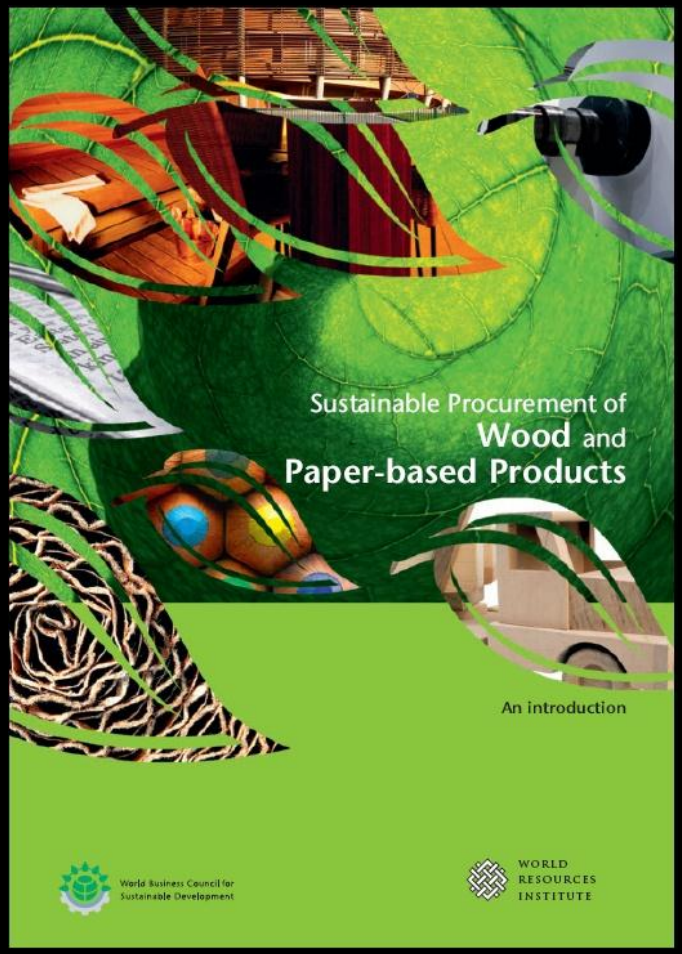
Outreach events and training:

- To stakeholder along supply chains (business, government) and civil society
- In producer, manufacturing, and transshipment countries

How can buyers minimize risk?

- Ask questions to suppliers:
  - Where does it come from?
  - What is the supply chain for this product?
  - What is the degree of illegal activity in the forest or region of origin?
- Buy only from reputable sources
- Know the market for the products you're buying
- Purchase third-party certified/verified products
- Exercise extra caution when purchasing from regions with known high rates of illegal logging

The Procurement Guide



- Sustainable procurement can promote sustainable forest management
- Procurement managers who are significant users of forest products and not experts on forest issues
- Non-prescriptive

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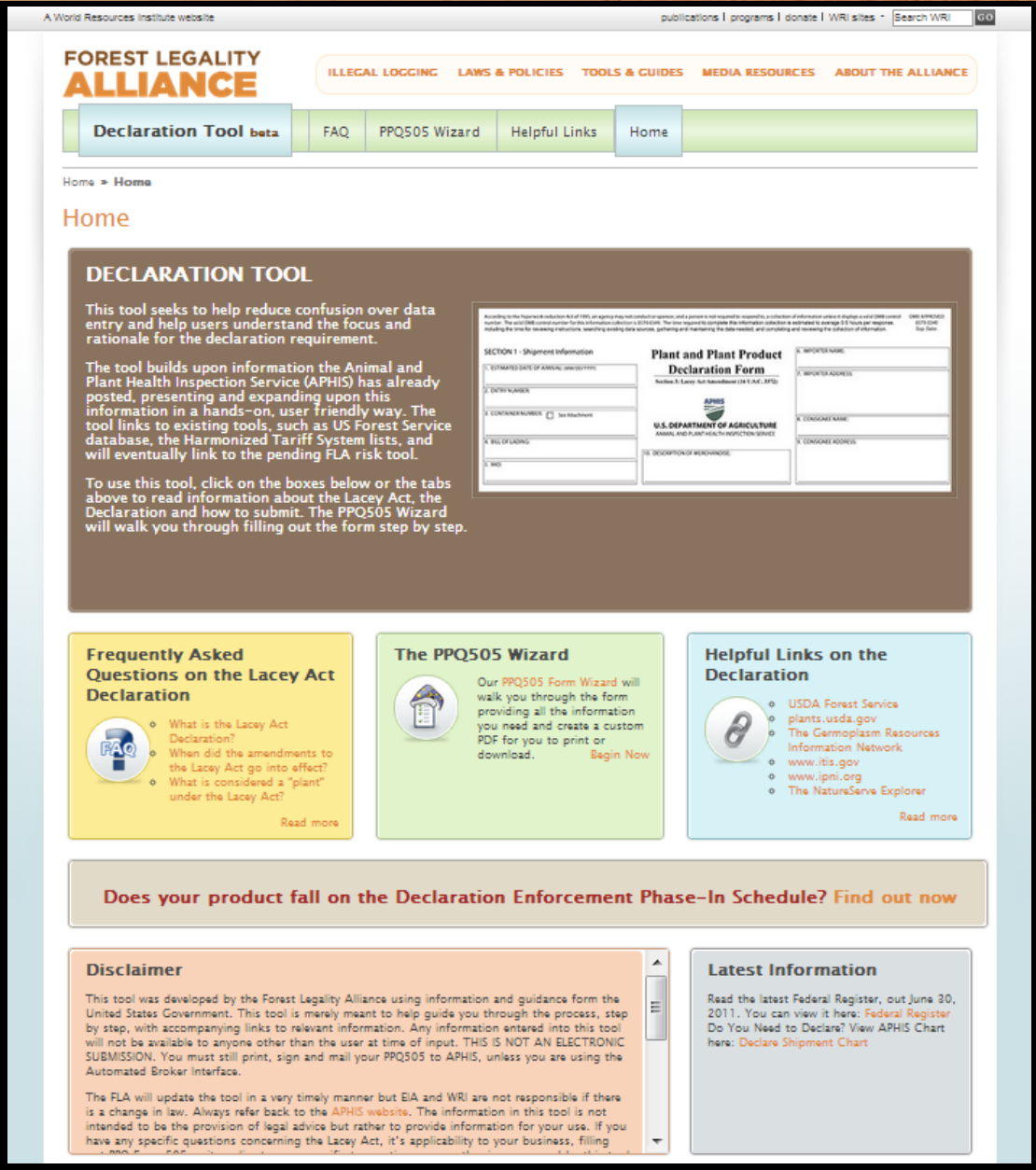
Minimizing risk



Risk information tool

Interface and Access Points

Basic due care questions
Fundamental questions to be answered

Locator map
Coarse res. Map for Location

Species page
Specific species information

Country page
Specific country information

Supplemental info
General information

CoC Profiler
Individual CoC profiler

Flow chart
Individual risk identifier

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Minimizing risk

A World Resources Institute website

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ILLEGAL LOGGING LAWS & POLICIES TOOLS & GUIDES MEDIA RESOURCES ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

Risk Tool beta | Forest Legality Basics | Countries | Species | Risk Tool Overview

Home » Risk Tool Home

Risk Tool Home

Find Country

- Choose - Go

Check back soon for additional countries.

Risk Tool Overview

Welcome to the Risk Information Tool, a project of the Forest Legality Alliance produced in cooperation with partners around the world. This tool is designed to present useful information about the sourcing of forest products. You can search our content by country or by species to find specific information.

The current version is Phase 1 of the tool, showing information about the forest products trade and relevant legality information by country and species. Information is added in increments; please check back frequently for information on additional countries and species of interest to the trade. Please see our disclaimer here.

Read more

Forest Legality Basics

Illegal logging can be usefully defined as the harvest, transport, sale, or purchasing of timber in violation of local, national, or international law. For the purposes of this tool, "forest legality" means the set of conditions that allows the harvest and trade of forest products that comply with applicable local, national, and international legal frameworks.

The Forest Legality Basics page provides broad-scale information and background on these legal frameworks and related issues – including CITES, "due care" under the Lacey Act, export bans, plantation forestry, and the role of certification – and what they imply for the trade in forest products.

Read more

Search for a Species

Enter a status, species name, etc.

Search More options

Sponsors

The Forest Legality Alliance is grateful for the financial support of our funding partners, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative through its Conservation & Community Partnerships Grant Program, in the development of this tool.

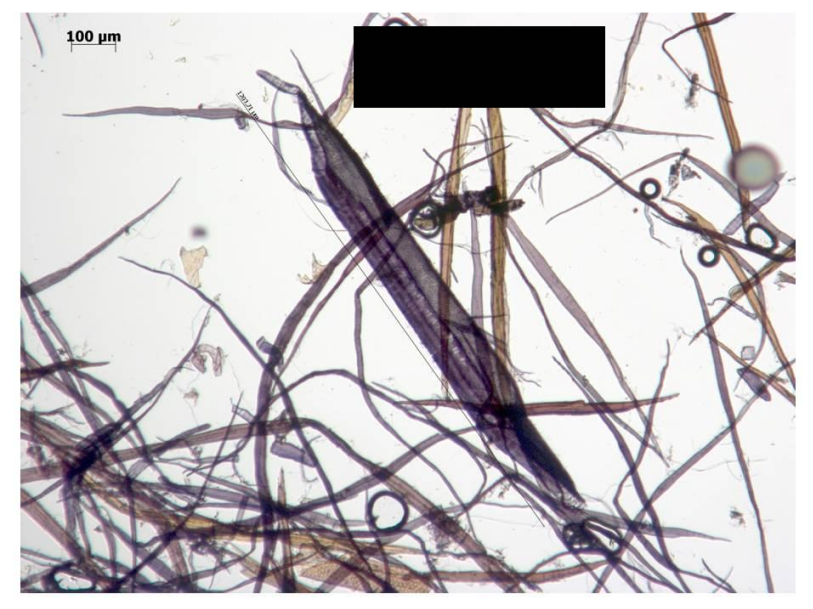
You can find out more about them and their work here.

Content Partners

A number of organizations have graciously provided content and expertise in the creation of the Risk Information Tool. Read more about them here.

New frontier on technology

Fiber Testing



Fiber Testing

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Risk Free? Paper and the Lacey Act

By *Ruth Noguerón and Craig Hanson*
November 15, 2010
Online

Tests detect potentially illegal wood in paper. Here are some tips to manage risk.

Test results demonstrate that it is possible to detect potential Lacey violations for paper, thanks to modern technology.

The amended U.S. Lacey Act has already impacted the wood industry, from the investigation of Gibson Guitars to a recently-reported seizure of Peruvian hardwood. Both of these cases involved solid wood products. But what about paper?

Paper poses the challenge of linking an illegally harvested tree in a faraway forest to a piece of paper purchased in the United States—after all the mixing and bleaching. Companies in the Forest Legality Alliance and others asked whether or not it is even possible to find Lacey violations in paper products.

Working with others, WRI decided to check it out.

We sent samples from 32 imported paper products to an independent fiber analysis laboratory. Samples we had tested came from stationery, paper bags, cardboard boxes, toilet paper, facial tissue paper, wrapping paper, and books—including pages, glossy cover sleeves, and cardboard from hardback covers. All products were purchased from stores and outlets in the United States.

With fiber analysis, scientists use high powered microscopes to look at plant fibers and vessels in a snippet of paper to identify what types of trees were used to make it. Vessels are structures that transport nutrients and water in plants, and they have distinct anatomical features that allow for identification of its genus and, in some cases, species.

What we found is telling.

The tests identified vessels with anatomical features consistent with those of ramin (*Gonystylus spp*) in a page of a coffee table book and in the cover paper of a children's book. These books were purchased from a U.S. retailer and published by U.S. firms but were manufactured in and imported directly from Indonesia. Increasingly rare, ramin trees have been protected internationally since 2003 under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Likewise, the Indonesian government has imposed an export ban on all ramin products. In other words, ramin fibers should not be found in paper.

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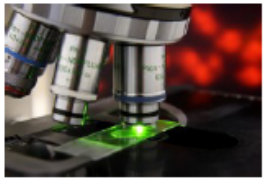
Q&A: Fiber Testing, Paper, and the Lacey Act

By *Ruth Noguerón, Craig Hanson and Adam Grant*
January, 2011
Online



Answers to frequently asked questions about fiber testing, a technology that can help find potentially illegal wood in the paper supply chain.

In November 2010, WRI posted "Risk Free? Paper and the Lacey Act" in which we discussed using paper fiber testing to find potentially illegally harvested wood in paper products purchased in the United States. The article received a lot of interest from companies in the forest product supply chain and from civil society organizations working to reduce illegal logging. Here, we respond to some frequently asked questions about fiber testing and how one might use the technology to manage risk in the paper supply chain.

1. What is fiber testing?

Fiber testing is a technology that is used to identify and quantify the mix of tree fibers contained in a sample of paper. Using high-power microscopes, specialized labs identify the composition of a sample of paper by observing the reactions of fibers when treated with various chemicals (e.g., change in color) and by identifying unique anatomical features in softwood fibers and hardwood vessels (e.g., shape, size, pit pattern). Vessels are structures that transport nutrients and water in plants and can be identified in paper. Depending on the quality of the fibers, experts can determine the pulp type (softwood vs. hardwood), pulping process (e.g., mechanical, chemical), the genus, and sometimes the species of the tree fibers contained in a paper sample.

2. Who uses fiber testing?

Fiber testing is an established technology used by the paper and pulp industry, mostly to confirm the fiber composition of products, which can have implications for product quality and equipment operation. Fiber testing has also been used to resolve disputes between paper mills and customers regarding paper composition. It has been used in court cases, and it has been used to confirm the authenticity of old documents.

Fiber testing is emerging as one of several resources available to buyers of paper products for conducting the "due care" or "due diligence" encouraged by policies such as the amended Lacey Act.

3. Who conducts fiber testing?

A number of companies conduct fiber analyses for the forest products industry, including:

- Econotech
- INNVENTIA
- Institute for Paper Science and Technology
- Integrated Paper Services, Inc.

4. My company wants to use fiber testing. What should I do?

- *Define your purpose.* Knowing why you want to conduct fiber testing will help you determine what samples to test and what to look for in the lab results. For example, if you want to verify your supplier's

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Thank you!

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The Alliance is a joint effort of the World Resources Insitute and the Environmental Investigation Agency, supported by the United States Agency for International Development and companies in the forest sector. Our goal is to reduce illegal logging through supporting the supply of legal forest products.

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BOUNIANDJE RIVER FOREST

Media Resources

Alliance-produced photos, videos, and other media are found in our media section.

Featured Video

Learn more about illegal logging and the Alliance's response.

Illegal Logging

Illegal logging is acknowledged as a major environmental, social and economic problem by both timber-producing and timber-consuming countries. Learn more.

No Questions Asked

The Impacts of U.S. Market Demand for Illegal Timber — and the Potential for Change
View Report

Laws & Policies

Countries that are major importers of wood products have begun to address the problem of illegal logging and associated trade with a variety of laws and policies. Learn more.

Setting the Story Straight

The U.S. Lacey Act: Separating Myth from Reality.
View Report

Tools & Guides

The Alliance produces innovative practical tools to help forest product supply chains screen out illegal wood. Learn more.

Forest Facts

Know the Forest and the Trees: A Consumer's Guide to Buying Wood.
View Report

About the Alliance

The Alliance is an international, multi-stakeholder private sector initiative designed to reduce demand for illegally harvested forest products. Learn more about us.

Forest Legality Alliance Beta Site
Check back soon for updates...

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