

ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND
ON COMBATING ILLEGAL LOGGING AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand, represented respectively by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Participants’),

INTRODUCTION

THE PARTICIPANTS;

- A.** *recognise* the shared commitment and historical ties between Australia and New Zealand, and the effective working relationship and cooperation on combating illegal logging and in promoting sustainable forest management;
- B.** *recognise* that illegal logging and associated trade is a significant global problem and that Australia and New Zealand together will play a critical role in combating international illegal logging and associated trade;
- C.** *share* an understanding that illegal logging and associated trade is an important factor contributing to forest degradation, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions, and deprives local communities in the region of the economic benefits from a sustainable forestry industry;
- D.** *seek* to further enhance their respective capabilities by collaborating to combat illegal logging and to encourage trade in timber and wood products from legally harvested and sustainably managed forests; and

- E. *share* interests in promoting sustainable forest management, forest certification, improved governance in the forestry sector, community participation in forest management, forest protection and providing leadership in forest conservation.

- F. *recognise* the 2011 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Declaration, made at the APEC Summit in Honolulu on 12 – 13 November 2011, adopted by the Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister of Australia and the Hon. Bill English MP, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, which declared that the APEC leaders would work to implement appropriate measures to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products and to undertake additional activities in APEC to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Arrangement is to promote greater cooperation between the Participants in order to:

- I. encourage trade in forest products from legally harvested forests and work towards trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests;
- II. combat illegal logging in the Asia Pacific region; and
- III. assist in the implementation of the international forestry agendas established through existing multilateral, regional and bilateral forestry forums.

2. Combating Illegal Logging and Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

2.1 In accordance with the respective laws and regulations of each participant and taking full account of the need to ensure personal, private and commercial confidentiality, the Participants will work together to:

- I. facilitate a greater understanding of the existing policy framework applying to forestry in both countries;
- II. support endeavours in the Asia Pacific region to improve sustainable forest

management practices and where appropriate the certification of forest practices to facilitate trade in timber products derived from legal and sustainable resources;

- III. investigate opportunities for improving the capacity of countries in the Asia Pacific region to verify the legality of the sources of timber;
- IV. consider areas for cooperation through multilateral forums for promoting implementation of accepted international policy frameworks for sustainable forest management and combating illegal logging;
- V. identify areas for cooperation on promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation through the improved use of forests in developed and developing countries, for example in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD plus); and
- VI. identify research efforts which will contribute to the body of knowledge supporting sustainable forest management practices.

2.2 To further the cooperation in the areas specified above, the Participants have developed a Programme of Work set out in the Annex to this Arrangement. The Participants will review the Programme of Work annually. Updates to the Programme of Work will be determined jointly and recorded in writing.

3. Amendments

This Arrangement may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants. Amendments to this Arrangement will come into effect on the date determined jointly by the Participants.

4. Commencement and Termination

4.1 This Arrangement will come into effect on the date it is signed by both Participants. It will remain in effect for three (3) years from that date and may be extended for further periods as determined jointly by the Participants.

4.2 Either Participant may terminate this Arrangement by giving ninety (90) days prior written notice to the other Participant.

Signed at Parliament House, Canberra, Australia on 21 August 2012

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

The Hon. Nathan Guy, Associate Minister for Primary Industries

ANNEX: PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. In order to coordinate approaches where possible, the Participants will share information on illegal logging policy developments in each country including:
 - the sharing of information by Australia on its illegal logging policy including the enabling legislation; and
 - consumer information campaigns on the issues of legality and sustainability.
2. The Participants will provide regular updates on initiatives and activities within the Asia Pacific region addressing illegal logging and sustainable forest management including agreements the Participants have with other countries.
3. The Participants will investigate the possibility of officials holding discussions on illegal logging trilaterally or plurilaterally within the Asia Pacific region.
4. The Participants will explore the opportunity of raising illegal logging in the context of Free Trade Agreements that the Participants are negotiating.
5. The Participants will identify developments in other initiatives that have bearing on the success of efforts to reduce illegal logging including the REDD plus mechanism, and incorporate these opportunities into joint planning of actions to combat illegal logging.
6. The Participants will share research on what constitutes illegal logging and approaches for combating illegal logging.
7. The Participants will identify areas for capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region to support the legal sourcing and verification of traded wood products.
8. The Participants will identify areas to support improvements in sustainable forest management, the governance arrangements applying to forest management, and the establishment of processes required to underpin the certification of forest practices in the Asia Pacific region.
9. The Participants will identify areas of collaboration which may be pursued through

key multilateral fora including: the International Tropical Timber Organization; the United Nations Forum of Forests; the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Forestry Committee of the FAO and Asia Pacific Forestry Commission; Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and other multilateral fora within the Asia Pacific region.