

Shining a light on forests and the timber trade

Some 1.6 billion people – more than **20% of the global population** – depend on forests for food and livelihoods



Half of all plants and animals on the planet live in forests



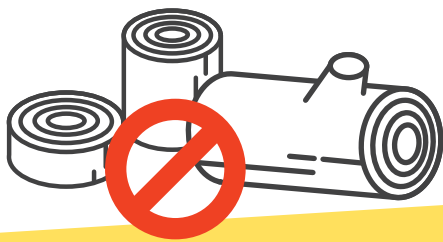
Forests regulate water supplies and climate, are the source of many medicines, and help prevent floods and droughts



But **– 12 million hectares** of tropical forests were lost in 2018...



Illegal timber trade is



AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME CRISIS

It is worth up to **USD 152 billion** annually



More than three times worth the value of illegal extraction and trade in minerals

Illegal logging is often linked with:

- Corruption
- Civil conflict and violence
- Human rights violations
- Organised crime

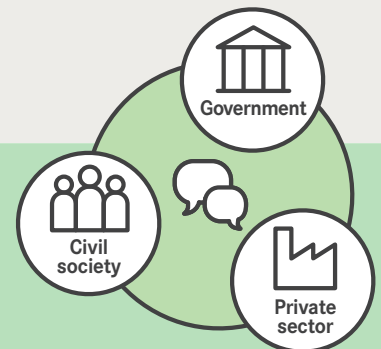
Transparency REQUIRES:

- 1 Capacity to analyse data
- 2 Improved access to relevant information
- 3 Better communication of the results

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR makes it difficult to expose and punish law-breakers

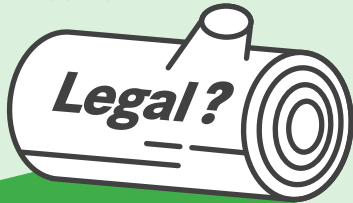
Transparency ENABLES:

- 1 **Meaningful participation of all stakeholders** to make governments and industry accountable
- 2 **Eliminating unfair competition** and business practices
- 3 **Combatting corruption** in decision making and investments



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The EU Action Plan on **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)** is the EU's response to the problem of illegal logging



15 tropical timber-exporting countries

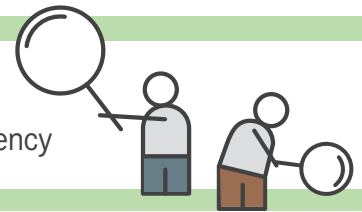
are negotiating or implementing FLEGT agreements with the EU

Negotiations of these FLEGT agreements are transparent and involve all stakeholders

FLEGT enables people to participate in and influence decision-making processes



Civil society organisations act as independent monitors tracking forest law enforcement activities and progress on transparency



Countries engaged in FLEGT processes are making their forest sector information public:



In **Ghana**, the Timber Transparency Portal gives real-time information on logging permits, companies, and timber exports

In **Cameroon**, observers relay information about illegal activities to authorities who then impose sanctions on culprits



In **Liberia**, communities use timber production information to check that they receive their fair share of logging fees



In the **Republic of the Congo**, observers exposed shortfalls in government revenue collection from timber companies

Indonesia publishes a list of all legally verified companies online. Auditors and importers can use this list to check the validity of an export licence

In **Indonesia**, observers ensured the environment ministry uphold transparency commitments

Information on:

✓	Laws and regulations
✓	Planning and forest allocation
✓	Forest management
✓	Production and trade
✓	Revenues and taxes
✓	Law enforcement