

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



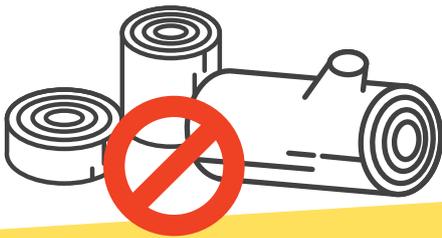
But **– 12 million hectares** of tropical forests were lost in 2018...



... an area almost three times the size of the Netherlands



Illegal timber trade is



AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

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



More than three times 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 Improved access to information
- 2 Capacity to analyse data
- 3 Better communication of decisions

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 hold 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 promote transparency and stakeholder involvement

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



Civil society organisations act as watchdogs monitoring forestry operations and law enforcement activities

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, enabling sanctions to be imposed



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



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

Indonesia provides the EU access to its FLEGT licence database to allow for verification

In **Indonesia**, observers upload complaints on a public portal. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry reports follow-up actions on that same portal

Information on:

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