

SGS FORESTRY MONITORING PROGRAMME



SGS

SGS Natural Resource Monitoring Services -

Independent monitoring and verification of legal compliance, in support of forest law enforcement and trade facilitation



Towards a legal and sustainable timber trade

The management of forests to provide long-term environmental, economic and social benefits is an issue of major and growing concern across the world. The loss of forests is often blamed on illegal logging and poor management.

In developed countries the issue is increasingly being addressed by the mechanism of denying market access to illegal forest products.

Through an effective and reliable national programme of monitoring and verification, governments of timber producing countries can show that they are consistently enforcing their existing legal framework for the forest sector.

SGS offers innovative and comprehensive solutions to address these challenges. Using its international network, impartiality, proven expertise and experience in inspection and monitoring SGS can assist both national governments and private companies to monitor their operations more efficiently and effectively.

Legal origin and compliance: National Monitoring and Verification

SGS Independent Validation of Legal Timber (IVLT) is a mandatory, country-wide programme, involving a long-term public/private partnership with government. Civil society organisations and individuals are also invited to play a role. It incorporates a tailored combination of the following elements:

- **Verification of Legal Origin (VLO):** includes verification of timber production rights, ownership, taxes and adherence to production restrictions and quotas. SGS uses a Timber Tracking system, combining tracking technologies and targeted product sampling to identify and monitor timber products throughout the production chain.

VLO demonstrates that logs and timber products have been legally sourced and are legally owned. Selected VLO modules reflect local conditions and can be adjusted over time, as the programme is gradually introduced.

- **Verification of Legal Compliance (VLC):** verification that producers comply with relevant national legislation for forest management planning, land management and forest exploitation. VLC covers forest surveillance, i.e. collection and verification of data from remotely-sensed, ground-based and documentary sources to ascertain proper execution of forest management plans. VLC demonstrates that logs and timber products have, in a wider sense, been legally produced. As in the case of VLO, a modular approach is adopted.
- **Export permits:** granted to consignments of timber that meet the criteria of agreed modules of VLO and VLC. These requirements may be tightened as IVLT is gradually implemented.

Since 1995, SGS has been successfully running independent monitoring and verification programmes in a number of African, Asian and Latin American countries. These programmes have a potential to evolve towards a comprehensive IVLT framework.

Forestry Monitoring Programme



BENEFITS

- Trade compliance, promotion and facilitation
- Overall risk reduction
- Economic competitiveness
- Conservation of natural assets and ecosystems
- Consolidation of forest sector information
- National capacity building
- Optimisation and fair collection of government revenue

Sustainable forest management: Voluntary Certification

Forest certification is a voluntary mechanism that looks beyond legal compliance, to operational practices that support sustainable timber production.

As a natural complement to a mandatory IVLT programme, third-party certification schemes such as that of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) enable companies to demonstrate their forest management operations are environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable and economically viable.

The internationally-recognised FSC trademark guarantees consumers that labelled wood products originate from certified forests and meet chain of custody requirements. Certified timber products command a significant market share and a price premium in certain market sectors.

The SGS Qualifor® programme is an FSC-accredited certification scheme. Now operating in 30 countries, it is the world leader in FSC certification.

Other relevant SGS Programmes

SGS also certifies forest management to the standards of other forest certification programmes in various countries. Furthermore, SGS operates a Certification Support Programme (CSP), environmental management certification services and timber inspection services across the world.

For companies that wish to demonstrate compliance with an agreed set of requirements on a voluntary basis particularly in countries where there is no credible legality verification system in place, SGS is currently involved in several initiatives aiming to develop voluntary timber legality verification and tracking systems.

TRADE ASSURANCE SERVICES

Comprehensive solutions and programmes to protect government revenues and facilitate trade:

- Import verification with risk management
- Valuation support
- Origin Validation
- Electronic trading community networks
- Foreign assistance monitoring
- Verification for CO2 emission trading
- Independent monitoring of forest conservation and timber trade

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*For SGS QUALIFOR®, please visit
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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS