



Timber Committee  
Economic Commission for Europe



European Forestry Commission  
Food and Agricultural Organization

**Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on  
ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TRADE OF ILLEGALLY-DERIVED FOREST PRODUCTS  
IN THE UNECE REGION: CAUSES AND EXTENT**

**Requested format for country reports to the Workshop**

**Purpose**

In order to provide fuller input to the workshop than would be possible by presentations alone, country reports will be a means both to collect information and to disseminate it at the workshop. All attending countries will be expected to submit a country report.

**Background**

All countries observe some form of illegal logging or of trade in illegally produced forest products. By definition, this type of activity is difficult to monitor. However, for policy reasons, it is imperative to have some idea of whether these activities are at a significant level, and if so, what type of activity may be occurring. Participants are therefore asked to use estimates, informal sources and their best judgment in providing the estimates requested below.

**What is illegal logging?**

Much of the discussion on illegal logging tends to be imprecise because of a certain ambiguity about the concept of illegal logging. For the purposes of this questionnaire, we narrowly understand illegal logging as timber harvesting activities that fail to respect national and sub-national laws and norms that regulate such harvesting operations. Acts such as tax evasion or acquiring timber concessions through corrupt deals, or timber smuggling, although clearly criminal acts, are considered different illegal acts and therefore excluded from this definition.

REPORT FROM IRELAND

**Report topics**

Please include all of the following major headings

(0, 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3 and 4) in your report.

**0. Abstract.** Please submit a short overview of your report. Maximum 10 sentences. If possible abstracts will be translated before the workshop.

Illegal logging in Ireland is not a significant problem. The country has a small forest estate, the largest producer of logs is the State forest company (it produces > 95% of harvesting logs by volume) and there is sufficient capacity to implement forest law to ensure that domestic illegal logging is not a significant problem.

Ireland is aware of the problem of international illegal logging and generally feels that in countries where the illegal logs originate, the issue is largely a matter for the relevant forest authorities to deal with in the first instance, whereas it is an issue for Customs authorities in importing countries. In both cases internationally agreed procedures and documentation are necessary in order to identify legally harvested logs thereby leading to detection of illegal timber.

**1. Illegal logging**

1.1. Types of illegal logging. In your opinion do any of the following occur at a significant level in your country? If so, please describe, specifying if possible, methods used by the criminals, species affected, regions where this occurs, etc.

- 1.1.1. Logging without permission or concession from public forests. No
- 1.1.2. Wood theft or illegal logging from private forests No
- 1.1.3. False declaration of volumes, species, values or origins of harvested wood No
- 1.1.4. Logging in protected areas such as national parks No
- 1.1.5. Logging in prohibited areas No
- 1.1.6. Removing oversized or undersized trees No
- 1.1.7. Obtaining logging authorization through bribes No
- 1.1.8. Killing or burning trees so that they can be logged No
- 1.2. What mechanisms are in place to monitor or estimate their importance? Law enforcement (Inspectorate and administration) and industry statistics.
- 1.3. In total, in your opinion, what is the volume of illegally logged wood in your country, as a percent of removals:
- 1.3.1. Less than 1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-25%, over 25% < 1%
- 1.3.2. What is this estimate based on?
- 1.3.2.1. Comparison of production, import and export, and consumption data
- 1.3.2.2. Sample surveys
- 1.3.2.3. Judicial records
- 1.3.2.4. Expert estimates, for example from reports of forest authorities
- 1.3.2.5. Other? Industry sources and local knowledge.
- 1.4. Additional comments on the causes and extent of illegal logging in your country
- 2. Trade in products of illegal logging**
- 2.1. Are you aware of any of the following:
- 2.1.1. Smuggling of roundwood or forest products (import or export) No
- 2.1.2. False declaration of goods (value, species, origin) No
- 2.1.3. Other trade related falsification (e.g. falsification of certificates of sustainable forest management) No
- 2.2. What mechanisms are in place to monitor discrepancies between declared imports and exports and actual imports and exports? Customs and Excise inspections.
- 2.3. In your opinion what is the volume exported and imported of illegally sourced wood as percentage of total wood exports?
- 2.3.1. Less than 5%, 5-25%, over 25% 5%
- 2.4. If there are significant volumes or values involved, please describe what is known about the type of fraud, its estimated volume and its causes. Not significant
- 2.5. Additional comments on the causes and extent of trade in products from illegal logging in your country
- 3. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade policies**
- 3.1. Is your country involved in any bilateral or multilateral initiatives on FLEGT? No
- 3.2. Does your country have official policies to reduce or eliminate illegal logging? There is no specific legislation outside of international commitments.
- 3.3. Does your country have official policies to reduce or eliminate trade of products from illegal logging? See 3.2 above
- 4. Additional information** (optional). As little is known about the topic as yet, it would help if you would provide any other information or ideas you consider relevant. For example, send in advance or bring for distribution at the workshop, any reports (published or unpublished) which may be available. (Please specify whether they are for the secretariat's internal use or for distribution at the workshop.)

Thank you in advance for your help.