



The President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging

Protecting forests and the livelihoods that depend on them

Illegal logging costs countries \$10-15 billion each year in lost revenues. Illegal logging and the trade in illegally harvested forest products destroys valuable forest ecosystems and the wildlife that depend on them, undermines legitimate commerce, fuels conflict, and has serious economic and environmental consequences. The United States **President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging (PIAIL)** aims to address the problem working with producer and consumer partners. The PIAIL, launched in 2003, has achieved notable results.

Our strategy

- ◆ Build capacity in developing countries to clarify and enforce forest-related laws, and good governance at all levels.
- ◆ Engage forest-dependent communities in sustainably managing forests.
- ◆ Promote the use of technologies such as remote sensing to monitor changes in forest conditions and compliance with forest-related laws.
- ◆ Promote good business practices, transparent markets and legal trade.



Recent Developments

- ◆ **Indonesia** – In November 2006, the United States Government signed a bilateral agreement with the Government of Indonesia to combat illegal logging and associated trade while helping to ensure Indonesia's legally produced timber and wood products have continued access to United States markets.
- ◆ **Liberia** – The United States is working with the Government of Liberia to foster important forest sector reforms to help restore legitimacy and fiscal transparency to the country's war-ravaged forest sector through the Liberia Forest Initiative.
- ◆ **Central America and the Amazon Basin** – The United States is providing \$18 million to strengthen environmental cooperation under the U.S. Free Trade Agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic. A portion of these funds is being used to improve governance in the region, including forest law enforcement. The United States is also helping partner countries in Central America and the Amazon to develop their capacity to manage mahogany and regulate and document its export.



International Awareness – The United States continues to highlight illegal logging through G8 commitments and support regional Forest Law Enforcement and Governance processes in East Asia (launched in Bali in 2001), Africa (launched in Yaounde in 2003), and Europe and North Asia (launched in St. Petersburg in 2005). These efforts have helped catalyze political commitment to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

Technical Knowledge and Tools – Through public-private partnerships, the United States is providing technical assistance to conserve threatened forests and protect threatened species, working to:

- ◆ Restore forests in the Malaysian state of Sabah, an important habitat for Borneo’s orangutans.
- ◆ Enhance the use of remote sensing technologies to monitor real-time changes in forest conditions in the Congo Basin.
- ◆ Develop and test wood tracking technologies in Peru and Bolivia.
- ◆ Strengthen information sharing on cross-border timber trade in Europe and Asia.
- ◆ Introduce tools and methodologies to combat illegal logging in the Balkans.



Increasing Local-Level Engagement – Public participation at all levels is fundamental to combating illegal logging. The United States is supporting programs in Ecuador, Madagascar, Peru and the Philippines to help communities and local and national governments work together to develop agreements to manage forests and protect against illegal encroachment.

Private Sector Engagement – Through the Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance, the United States is working with forest product companies and suppliers worldwide to promote responsible forest management and trade, reduce illegal logging, and improve the well-being of communities in developing countries. As a result, 25 million hectares of forests are being better managed and moving toward certification eligibility.

Related initiatives

- ◆ Through the **Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking** launched in 2005, the United States and the Coalition’s many government and non-government partners are working together to raise public and political awareness of the impacts of wildlife trafficking and build international capacity to combat criminal activity and stamp out the supply of illegal animal products.

- ◆ Through the **Congo Basin Forest Partnership** the United States is working with 30 governments and non-government partners toward the shared goal of conserving the forest of Central Africa to benefit the region’s people. The United States has committed close to \$68 million to help forest users and owners in the Congo Basin to sustainably manage forests.

- Under the 1998 **Tropical Forest Conservation Act**, the United States has concluded debt-for-nature agreements with 11 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America that have helped relieve official debt to United States and will generate \$137 million over 10-25 years to help conserve important tropical forests in partner countries.