



Guide for timber procurement

in collaboration with Ferrovial

ferrovial

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WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global Network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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NOTE: This guide includes references and information about tools and resources in continuous development with the purpose of being adapted to the changes taking place in the legal trade and forestry resources sector. For the same reason, we recommend to the users of this guide to use its content as a reference to access the information more updated available at the moment of its use.

1. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE A RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING OF FOREST PRODUCTS?

PROBLEM DIMENSION

Forests are essentials for life on Earth and they play an important role in essential topics such as water resources and soil protection, climate change mitigation or biological diversity conservation. The benefits provided by forests are not only limited to the environmental scope. Their importance from a social point of view is also relevant, not only for their recreational use, but also because they provide renewal resources such as wood, paper or cork being essentials to the survival of 1.600 million of people who depends on them.

Nevertheless, in order that forests can perform these functions and continuing providing their products, they need to be in an optimal preservation condition that won't be guaranteed if the current rates of forest deforestation and degradation are not reverted.

Currently, between 12 and 15 million hectares of forest are lost, being the deforestation, responsible for 15% of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

The complexity of measuring forest degradation doesn't allow, nowadays, its assessment, but exists a wide consensus on the fact that slowing down the degradation is as important as containing deforestation problems. Degradation is a process whereby natural forests are transformed gradually into degraded land, more vulnerable to fires, species invasion, land usurpation and land conversion to non-forestry uses.

Among the key drivers of forests deforestation and degradation can be named agriculture, livestock, illegal logging and unsustainable overexploitation of forests, mining and infrastructure development. It is therefore a wide and complex challenge which could only be faced starting up different strategies. We are not facing a problem with a single solution.

The responsible forest management is one of those strategies through which we can influence as much in deforestation slow down and forest degradation as to assure an "adequate health condition", and therefore its capacity to develop essential functions of life as well as the weather and water cycle regulation, erosion control and renewal resources production.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS AND COMPANIES ARE KEY WHEN THE TIME COMES TO PROMOTE ANOTHER SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION

WHAT CAN WE DO AS CONSUMERS? THE ROLE OF SPECIFIERS

As consumers, we can play an important role in favor of forest conservation. Our consumption preferences are messages that go directly to the forest, defining how the resources are exploited. To prefer wood, paper or cork over synthetic or substitute products is already a gesture in favor of the environment and rural economy. But this is not enough, because in occasions the product extraction is realized without respecting the basic principles of sustainability, and even, legality.

Studies carried out by WWF and presented in its [Living Forest Report](#) estimate that forest products demand will be tripled by 2050. If forests with productive vocation and forest plantations are managed responsibly and their products are consumed and used efficiently by replacing others with higher ecological footprint, this should be beneficial for the Planet. In this scenario, responsible forest management and product consumption acquire greater relevance.

Public administrations and companies are key when the time comes to promote another system of production, not only because of the volume of inputs consumed, but because in many cases they act as specifiers, influencing through technical prescriptions or purchasing policies in the production models, generating domino effect along the supply chain and making fundamental changes in the way of extracting resources.

Prescribing correctly

Always, timber technical characteristics must be prescribed (density, color, hardness, etc.) instead of prescribing specific wood species. In this way will contribute to reduce the pressure exerted by the market on certain “fashionable species” slowing down their decreasing. Thus, we assure to find species in the market with enough guarantees of responsible origin.

It is not appropriate to prescribe as follows:

- Board bank of 50 mm of Iroko’s wood.

Prescription should be done as follows:

- Board bank of 50 mm of Iroko’s wood or specie with similar technical characteristics. In relation with the sustainable origin of the wood, the trade policy in effect will be applied, assuring the legal origin of the wood and valuing the use of wood with a forest certification label properly recognized.

RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING HAS THE OBJECTIVE TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF FINDING ILLEGAL PRODUCTS

WHAT DO WE CALL RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING OF FOREST PRODUCTS?

Responsible purchasing of forest products (wood, paper, cork...) has as an objective to minimize the risk of finding in our supply chain products from illegal and/or unsustainable origin, at the same time that we generate a positive impact on the forest. This objective materializes in two different courses of action:

- > Removal from the supply chain the products with high risk of coming from illegal and/or unsustainable exploitation and
- > To give priority, when the market conditions allow it, for those products coming from forests managed in a responsible way.

These two objectives define an enough wide framework for action. As a company or public administration, we can resign ourselves in trying to assure the legality of the consumed products to the development of our activity or try to generate a greater impact in the territory promoting the responsible forest management that is betting on those products with sustainable origin ([see section 3 for more information about the differences between legality and sustainability concepts](#)).

The responsible purchasing of forest products is carried out through three fundamental key elements:

- > Information gathering
- > Analysis of information to identify the level of risk and
- > Mitigation measures application in those cases in which risk has been identified.

This process is used by the European legislation to remove the illegal exploitation of wood (Regulation (EU) n° 995/2010 of the European Parliament and the Council, 20th of October 2010, in which the obligations of the agents who trade wood and their products are established is referred as due diligence. ([see section 2 for more information](#)))

The [Global Forest and Trade Network](#) of WWF (GFTN) has established a methodology which helps companies to classify the products according to its environmental category, to set targets and to provide monitoring till their achievement. This system is based on a step-wise approach shown below:

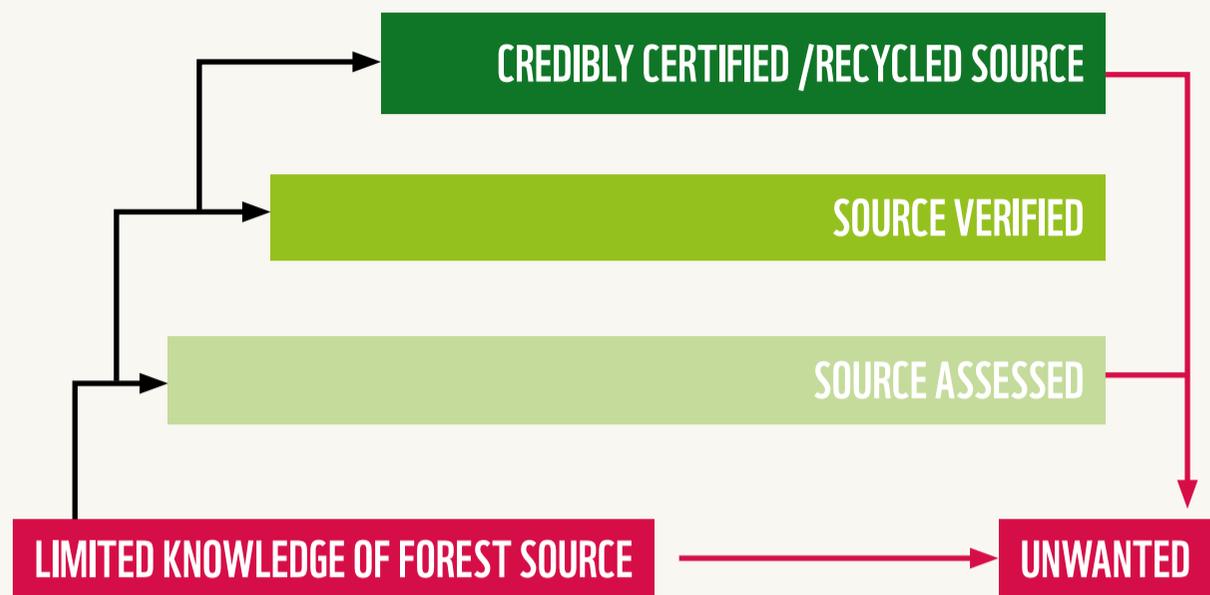


Figure 1. Methodology that helps companies to classify their products according to their environmental category.

IN THIS CONTEXT, FOREST PRODUCTS ARE NATURALS AND RENEWALS AND, IF THEY HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED IN A RATIONAL WAY, THEY ARE THE MOST ECOLOGICAL MATERIALS WE CAN USE

Credibly certified/recycled source: The forest source is certified as well managed under a credible forest certification scheme and material is 3rd party certified post-consumer recycled.

Source verified: Forest source is verified by a third party against basic legality, traceability, social and environmental criteria so material does not contain unwanted sources and material is verified as pre-consumer recycled or recovered.

Source assessed: Forest source evaluated against basic legality and traceability and pre or post-consumer recycled or recovered material that has not been independently verified.

Limited knowledge about the forest of origin: There is uncertainty on the precise source of the material and whether it is from unwanted sources

Unwanted source: Material is unknown or from unwanted sources.

Companies must implement actions aimed to reduce the number of products that are located in the lower categories of the previous graph and increment the ones located on the top.

For more information about responsible purchasing see section 3.

TIMBER COMPARED TO OTHER MATERIALS

The alignment between the current global financial crisis and the dramatic environmental situation we are facing reveals that global economy only will be fair and responsible when it is based on the rational use of renewal products.

In this context, forest products are naturals and renewals and, if they have been extracted in a rational way, they are the most ecological materials we can use. They act as CO₂ storage being producing and processing with low energy cost; also, they are recyclable, reusable and energetically re-valuable at the end of their life cycle.

However, evaluating the global ecological footprint of the products is complex. This complexity has derived in a great variety of methodologies for the analysis of the life cycle and in much subjectivity in its application. These imply that the majority of the Life Cycle Analysis of products that has been realized is difficult to compare among each other, even reaching opposite conclusions. The ISO norm about Life Cycle Analysis (ISO 14040:2006) demonstrates the necessity of transparency in the development of these analyses providing guidelines for different product categories.

The development of Life Cycle Analysis more robust can help us to make decisions in favour of the use of forest products instead of others coming from synthetic origin.

2. EUROPEAN LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE ILLEGAL LOGGING

Timber's trading from illegally exploited forest and their by-products have been forbidden in the European Union since March 2013 according to the EU Timber Regulation. The agents who trade for the first time timber or its by-products in the European market, and the traders who purchase and sell those products afterwards, need to apply certain measures to fulfil this legislation.

The content of this Regulation (Regulation number 995/2010 of the European Parliament and the Council of 20th October 2010) is based on the following three points:

- > Prohibiting agents to trade within the European market with timber and its by-products harvested illegally,
- > Requiring agents that place timber for the first time in the European market to carry out due diligence and,
- > Once the products are in the European market, the Regulation requires all traders who purchase and/or sell those products to save records of their customers and direct suppliers.

Figure 2 illustrates the main requirements that timber operators and traders must follow:

TIMBER'S TRADING FOR ILLEGALLY EXPLOITED FOREST HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN IN THE EU SINCE 2013

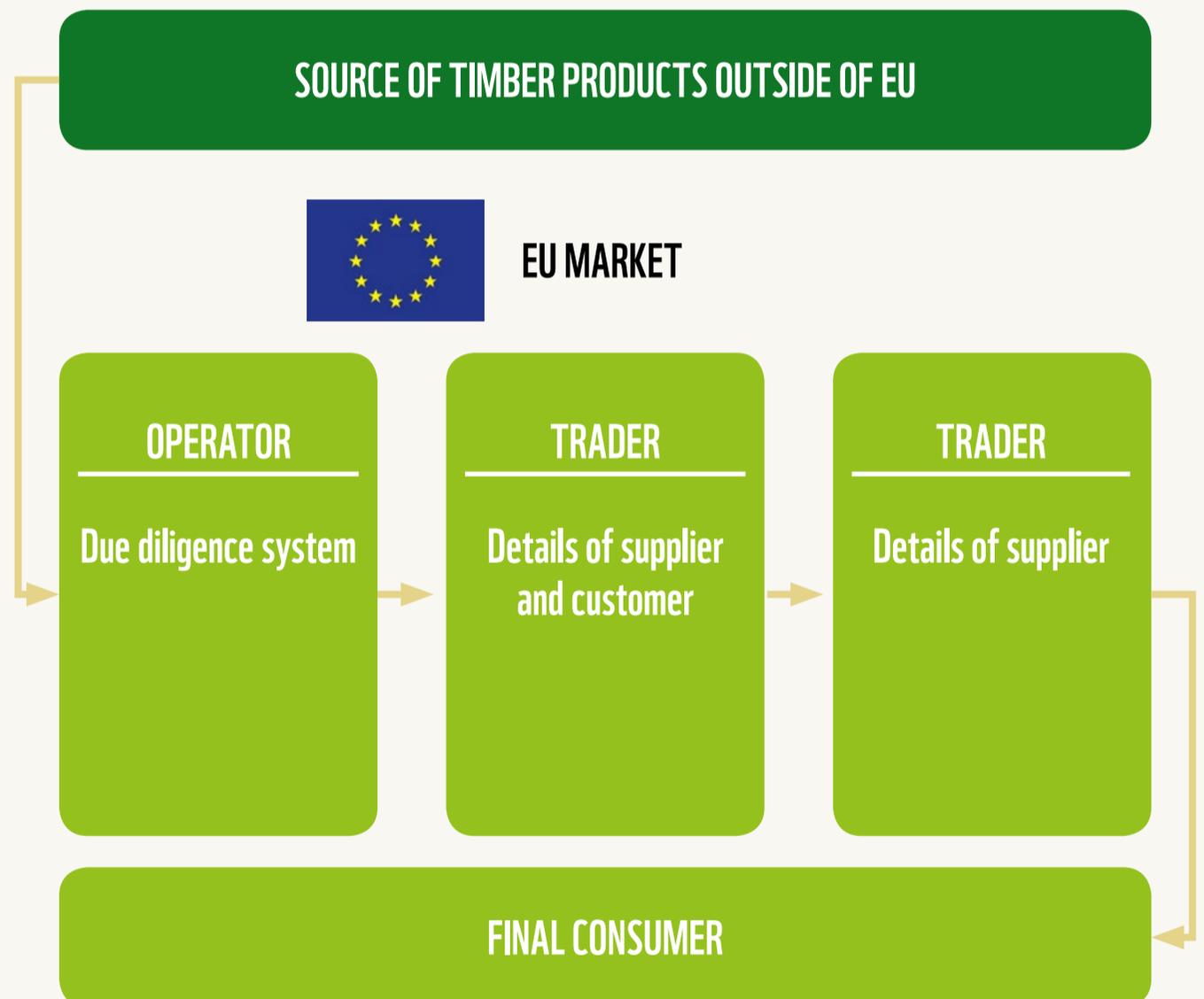


Figure 2. Main requirements to follow by timber operators and traders, according to the EU Timber Regulation

WHAT IS ILLEGAL LOGGING ACCORDING TO THE EUROPEAN REGULATION?

The EU Regulation for the commercialization of timber products establishes that timber coming from illegal sources is the timber harvested breaching the existing legislation in the country of origin. Therefore, such legislation covers the following aspects:

- > Timber exploitation rights within limits published officially,
- > Payments for exploitation rights and for the timber,
- > Environmental and forest legislation relating to forest management and biodiversity conservation when it is directly related to timber exploitation
- > Tertiaries' legal rights affected by timber exploitation in relation to the land ownership and land use, and
- > Trading and customs to the extent that it concerns forest sector.

WHO IS WHO IN THE EU TIMBER REGULATION (EUTR)?

Operators are those who introduce timber products for the first time in the European market. Some examples of operators are: importers, distributors, timber products manufactures or forest agents that supply timber coming from a European forest. The operators have to apply a due diligence system to avoid the risk of trading with products of illegal origin and additionally they have to keep records of their immediate clients.

Traders are those who purchase and/or sell timber products that have been introduced previously into the European market by an operator. Traders have to keep records of their suppliers and direct clients for all those commercialized timber products.

Final consumers of forest products are not covered by the Regulation and they don't have any requirement to fulfil.

WHAT IS A DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM?

A due diligence system is a group of procedures and measures that have as an objective to minimize the risk of introducing in the European market timber products harvested illegally. The main elements of a due diligence system are:

INFORMATION: the agent must be able to provide information about timber products. This information must cover aspects such as product description (commercial name, product type, forest species common name and full scientific name), country where forest of origin is located (in some cases, information about sub region or forest license from which the product comes from, must be provided), quantity (volume, weight, number of units), name and address of the supplier and direct client and necessary documentation to prove the product's legality fulfillment.

RISK ANALYSIS: the agents must analyze the risk of commercializing timber harvested illegally. This analysis will be based on data gathered in the point number 1 as well as in evidences of compliance with applicable legislation, information about the risk of illegal operations in the region where the product comes from, information about the existence of trading moratoriums for specific species, existence of armed conflicts in the region, complexity of supply chain, etc. The assurance of compliance with applicable legislation can include certifications/documents issued by official authorities of country of origin, certifications of forest management or other third party verifications. [In section 3](#), the requirements established by EU for risk analysis are analyzed in more detail.

RISK MITIGATION: When the risk analysis realized, proves the existence of a far from negligible risk of finding timber from illegal origin in the supply chain, the operator will have to set up adequate procedures to mitigate this risk, requiring additional information or other type of verification to the supplier.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATION ABOUT TIMBER COMMERCIALIZATION

Member States are responsible of transposing the Regulation developing a national legislative framework and assuring its application. Also, Member States must establish sanctions and penalties associated with the unfulfilment of the Regulation. These penalties have to be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and must include:

- > Fines proportionate for the environmental damage, for the timber products' value and for the economic losses (including tax evasion) caused,
- > Confiscation of timber products and
- > Immediate suspension of trading authorization.

Each Member State must designate a Competent Authority responsible of the Regulation's application in its country. These entities are as well responsible for developing an adequate control system over operators and traders.

In order to EU Timber Regulation becomes an effective tool to slow down illegal forest exploitation is necessary its adequate application by all the Member States.

WWF's barometer , an evaluation of the implementation of the Regulation by Member States, reveals that several EU countries, among which is Spain, have not taken the necessary measures to avoid trading of timber illegally harvested, jeopardizing the efforts the EU is realizing to stop the problem of illegal forest exploitation.

According to WWF's barometer in the second semester of 2014, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia had not developed yet national legislations that allowed them to regulate and ensure the legality of commercialized timber in the European market.

The last monitoring report of the European Commission about EUTR's application confirms the low level of the Spanish Government performance.

These analysis shows that, more than a year after its entry into force, the Timber Regulation is being applied in a very heterogeneous way in the different EU Member States and in some countries, as it is the case of Spain, it is not even being applied.

Although this situation is obviously dynamic, and since WWF's Eurobarometer publication , the level of EUTR application in the countries could have changed, in the Spanish case, on the date of publication of this guide, the legal framework that allows the Regulation application in our country has just been developed but controls on operators and traders are not still being implemented.

WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THIS LEGISLATION AND WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST PRODUCT PURCHASING?

There are two aspects we must have into account when developing and applying a policy for forest product purchasing in the European framework:

The European Regulation is based exclusively on timber legality. This is an important point and the first step to be guaranteed for a responsible exploitation of the forests. However, there are differences between the concepts of legality and sustainability (see section 3 to go in depth in this topic). As it can be seen in the stepped approach proposed by the GFTN for conducting a responsible purchasing, the legality of our products would locate them in the first steps of this ladder towards sustainability, but as a company or entity involved in the forest products prescription/purchasing process, we can apply additional measures to increase the number of products located in the upper categories, contributing in this way to promote a more responsible forest management.

On the other hand, the heterogeneous application of the Regulation at European level and the almost non-existent application of it at national level, provokes that we cannot assume that both, operators and traders, are meeting the pertinent obligations assuring the legality of the products we are consuming. The correct implementation of the Timber Regulation will take a while and until that moment, when we ask for legality and/or sustainability guarantees to our suppliers, we will be not only controlling the risk of consuming timber from illegal origin, but also we will be contributing to enabling conditions for the effective application of the Regulation.

For more information about the EU Timber Regulation, the following documents can be consulted:

[WWF and ACE Q&A on the EU Timber regulation](#)

[PAS 2021:2012 Exercising due diligence in establishing the legal origin of timber and timber products – Guide to Regulation \(EU\) No 995/2010](#)



3. GUARANTEES OF LEGALITY/ SUSTAINABILITY OF TIMBER PRODUCTS

LEGALITY, THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

The easiest way to define timber legality is to define what it is timber of illegal origin.

Strictly speaking, any activity which violates the legal framework that the country of origin of the timber establishes for its extraction and commercialization is illicit. Therefore, there are as many definitions as countries of timber origin and this diversity represents one of the major difficulties in establishing the legality of the products we consume.

The legality covers a broad range of aspects, which means other of the major complexities at the time of asking to our suppliers about product guarantees, due to there are many aspects we must consider. In section 2 the aspects that according to the EU Timber Regulation covers the applicable legislation of the countries of origin, have been detailed.

Basic concepts regarding products legality

- Legality is defined by the countries of timber origin and it covers a great variety of aspects (questions relative to exploitation, tax payments, commercial law and customs, biodiversity protection, rights of people affected by forest exploitation...).
- As consumers, we don't know the applicable legislation in the countries of origin, and although we would know it, in most of the cases it results complex to address with our suppliers the extent of the issues covered.
- Sometimes supply chains are very long and complex and the traceability of the product has been lost at some point, whereby it is not easy to access the information about the origin of the product.
- Illegal harvesting is not a problem in all the countries. A practical approach can start by identifying regions/countries of high risk, and focus our efforts in addressing aspects of concern in those areas (i.e. corruption, noncompliance of the laws, social conflicts, etc.).
- In the case we want to request to the suppliers, guarantees of legality without appealing to a responsible forest management certificate, WWF has developed a document that may help to address the different aspects of legality named "[Framework for assessing the legality of forestry operations, timber processing & trade](#)". This document establishes a general framework for all the countries. Besides the general framework, WWF has developed specific frameworks for some of the high risk countries: [Central African Republic](#), [China](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), [Gabon](#), [Malaysia](#), [Vietnam](#), [Cameroon](#), [Indonesia](#) and [India](#).
- Most of the times, when it is a product of high risk, the simplest way to be sure that timber doesn't come from illegal exploitation will be to ask for a third party verification, either through a forest management certification scheme or a legality verification.

LEGALITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY SHOW
TWO DIFFERENT LEVELS
OF PERFORMANCE IN THE
FOREST

LEGALITY VERSUS SUSTAINABILITY

Legality and sustainability show two different levels of performance in the forest.

Timber legality involves that exploitation has been realized fulfilling applicable legislation of the country of origin and also international agreements of timber trading. It is a necessary requirement to progress towards sustainability.

Legality is not equivalent to sustainable or responsible forest management. The fact that a forest product has been produced legally doesn't mean necessarily that it has been produced environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.

Sustainability goes far beyond legality. More than an achievable state itself, it is a concept which implies responsible actions aimed to ensure for future generations, the benefit of goods and services that we have inherited. Progress towards sustainability implies that forest exploitation has been realized not only legally,

but also it has followed some criteria seeking to maintain and enhance economic, social value (rights and interests of local populations, workers and society in general) and environmental (biodiversity and ecological processes of the forest) values of the forests. For that, evaluation and monitoring systems are implemented allowing checking the quality of performance in relation to forest conservation.

THE RISK ASSOCIATED TO PRODUCTS

To purchase timber products responsibly, the first step is to assess the risk associated to this product. Depending on its risk we will define the guarantee level to request to the suppliers.

The region of origin of the product and the timber specie, are the first indicators about the probable risk of the products.

Thus, a first evaluation of the risk associated to products can be done through the following two parameters:

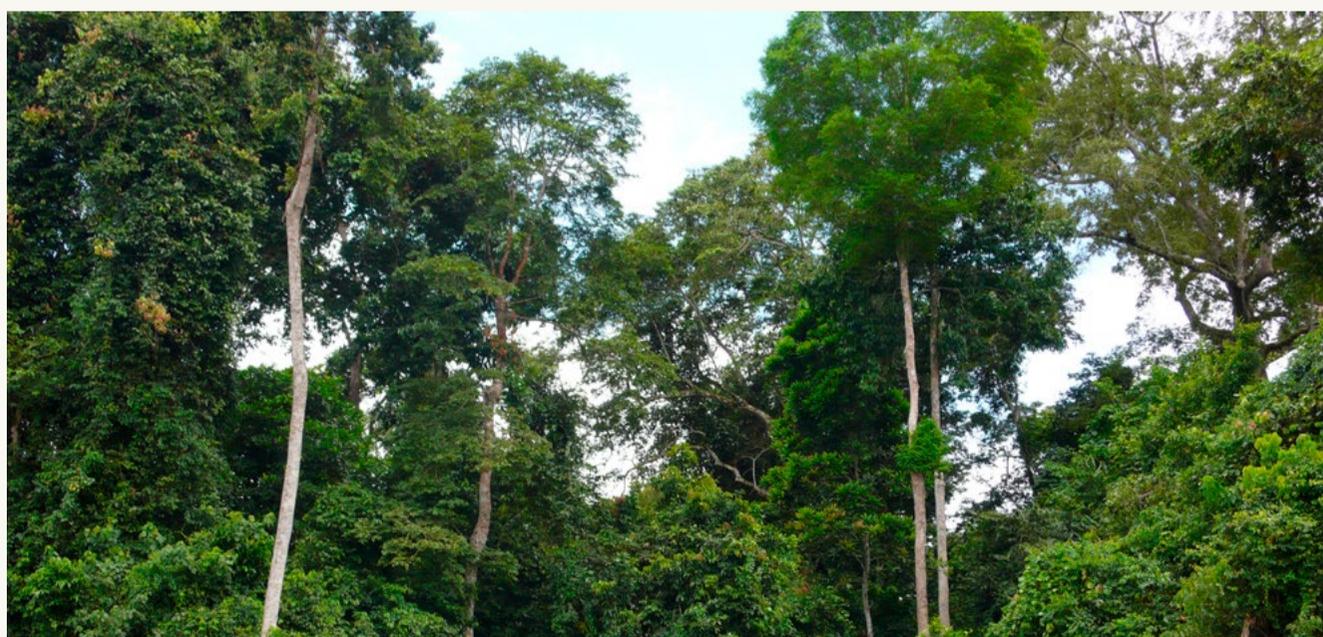
- > Timber species: there are species which are threatened and therefore they are subject to certain restrictions. On the other hand, having into account the main producing countries of a specific specie, it can be established if the timber comes from a high risk area.
- > Timber origin: if the country of origin of the timber is known, it can be determined if the timber comes from a high risk country. When referring to the region of origin of the products, we are talking about the country or region where the forest or plantation from where the product has been harvested is located. Sometimes, this information is not easy to obtain, especially when the supply chain is complex. Some suppliers won't be able to provide information beyond the following link of the chain, meaning their own suppliers, which does not allow us to locate the forest of origin.

Either the application of one or the other approach previously indicated, if a high risk is determined, a control system must be applied allowing us to minimize that risk.

It is important to highlight that in high risk areas, also it can be produced timber in a legal and responsible way, however, if our supplier is not capable to provide evidences proving the legality and/or the sustainable exploitation of the resources, we would be assuming a not negligible risk.

The fact of not having information about the country of origin of the products or about the species, is the first risk that as a company we assume. One of the first lines of action that we must start up is to eliminate in our supply chain those timber products from high risk species from which we don't have any information.

THE ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT IS AN INDICATOR ABOUT THE RISK.



The guidelines developed by the EU for the application of the Timber Regulation suggest addressing the following questions in order to do a risk assessment:

- **Where does the timber come from?**

Is Illegal logging a common practice in the country, region or concession where the timber comes from?

Is especially high the risk of illegal logging of this specific forest specie?

Have been imposed, by the United Nations Security Council or European Union Council, penalties about imports or exports of timber in that region?

- **Is the governance level a reason for concern?**

The level of governance can reduce the reliability of any accrediting documents of the compliance with applicable legislation. Thus, we will have into account the level of corruption in the country, business risk rates and other indicators of governance.

- **All the documents that show the applicable legislation fulfillment have been made available to the supplier? Are these verifiable?**

If all the documents are easily available, it is more probable that the supply chain of the product can be established. We must have a well-founded confidence in the authenticity and reliability of the documents.

- **Are there evidences of participation of any company in the supply chain in related practices associated with illegal logging? Is the supply chain complex?**

The more complex the supply chain is, the more difficult will result to monitor the origin of timber products until the place of harvesting. The lack of necessary information at some point in the supply chain increases the possibilities of timber entrance coming from illegal origin.

It must be understood that we are facing a negligible risk when, after a full evaluation of specific and general information of the product, no reason of concern appears.

This list of risk evaluation criteria is not exhaustive; the operators have the possibility to add others if they consider them useful to determine the risk of illegality for a timber product.

FOR A QUICK RISK ASSESSMENT

This section is designed to facilitate the risk analysis process, on the basis that many professionals of the sector don't count with enough time to do an exhaustive assessment. The following information will allow us to do a quick but reasonably valid evaluation to start up actions which minimize the risk.

When we have information about the timber specie:

When a company faces the fulfilment of the requirements specified in a project, tender or contract, in many occasions, specific species of timber are prescribed explicitly. In these cases we could do a risk evaluation involving the use of this specie based on its distribution area. A quick search on the internet will give us an idea of the species' origin.

The next section goes in depth on how to analyze the risk depending on the region of origin of the products. Table 1 shows some of the species more used in Spain that come from high risk regions. When using species belonging to these regions, it is critical to do a legal and/or responsible consumption.

To complement the previous information or for a more detailed analysis, we can use the [Global Forest Registry](#). Also, we can use this tool to do an analysis of other species not listed in the tables above. An easy search on the internet will provide us with an approximation of the distribution area of the specie (more information about the use of this tool in the section about an exhaustive risk assessment).

Table 1. Species coming from regions with high risk of illegal exploitation

SPECIES COMING FROM AMAZONIA		
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
BALSA TREE	<i>Ochroma Lagopus</i>	
MAHOGANY TREE	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	Protected species by the CITES convention. It can be found in appendix II. It needs a special permit for exportation or a certificate of re-export. This certification must be required when purchase realization. There are differences of requirements for its commercialization depending on the sub specie and origin.
AMERICAN CEDAR	<i>Cedrela Odorata</i>	Protected species by the CITES convention. It can be found in appendix III for the Colombian and Peruvian species. In the case of coming from other countries, it is needed a certification of origin issued by the CITES' administrative authorization of the exporting/ re-exporting country.
CEREJEIRA	<i>Amburana acreana</i> <i>Cearensis</i>	
CUMARU	<i>Dipterix spp</i>	
GRAPIA	<i>Apuleia molaris</i>	
IPE O LAPACHO	<i>Tabebuia spp</i>	
JATOBA	<i>Hymenaea spp</i>	
LOURO BERMEJO	<i>Ocotea rubra</i>	
MARUPA	<i>Simarouba glauca</i> <i>Simarouba versicolor</i>	
SUCUPIRA	<i>Diploporis purpurea</i>	
TATAJUBA	<i>Bagassa guianensis</i> <i>Bagassa tiliaefolia</i>	
TAUARI	<i>Coutari spp</i>	
TECA	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	
SPECIES COMING FROM CENTRAL AND WESTERN AFRICA		
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
ACAJOU	<i>Khaya spp</i>	
AFRORMOSIA	<i>Pericopsis elata</i> <i>Afrormosia elata</i>	Protected species by the CITES Convention. It can be found in appendix II. It needs a special permit for exportation or a certificate of re-export. This certification must be required when purchase realization.
AYOUS O SAMBA	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>	
BADI	<i>Nauclea diderichii</i> <i>Sarcocephallus trillesii</i>	
BAHIA	<i>Hallea spp</i>	
BOSSE	<i>Guarea spp</i>	
BUBINGA	<i>Guibourtia spp</i>	
DOUSSIE	<i>Afzelia spp</i>	
EMBERO	<i>Lovoa trichioides</i>	
ETIMOE	<i>Copaifera spp</i>	
FRAMIRE	<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	
FROMAGER O CEIBA	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> <i>Ceiba thoningii</i>	
IROKO	<i>Clorophora excelsa</i> <i>Clorophora regia</i>	
KOTIBE	<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>	
KOTO	<i>Pterygota bequaertii</i>	
MAKORE	<i>Tieghemella heckelii</i> <i>Tieghemella africana</i>	
MANSONIA	<i>Mansonia altísima</i>	
MONGOY	<i>Guibourtia ehie</i>	
MOVINGUI	<i>Distemonanthus benthamianus</i>	
MUKALI	<i>Aningeria spp</i>	
NIANGON	<i>Heritiera spp</i>	

SPECIES COMING FROM CENTRAL AND WESTERN AFRICA		
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
OKUME	<i>Aucoumea klaineana</i>	
PALO ROJO	<i>Pterocarpus buettneri</i> <i>Pterocarpus tinctorius</i>	
SAPELLY	<i>Entadrophagma cylindricum</i>	
SIPO	<i>Entadrophagma utile</i>	
TALI O ELONDO	<i>Erythopleum utile</i>	
TECA	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	
TIAMA	<i>Entadrophagma angolense</i> <i>Entadrophagma congolense</i>	
WENGE	<i>Millettia laurentii</i> <i>Millettia stuhlmannii</i>	
ZEBRANO	<i>Microberlinia brazzavillensis</i> <i>Microberlinia bisulcata</i>	

SPECIES COMING FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA		
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
MERBAU	<i>Intsia spp</i>	
TECA	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	
MERANTI	<i>Shorea spp</i>	

SPECIES COMING FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA

Some countries in Eastern Europe and some regions in Russia (especially eastern region) have serious problems of illegal timber exploitation. The distribution area of many of the species coming from these areas is quite wide, and in many cases, coinciding with low risk regions (i.e. the case of *Pinus sylvestris* which can come from low risk areas such as Spain or high risk areas such as Russia). In these cases it is recommended to ask for information about the country of timber origin and check the risk of illegality in that country. [The web Illegal Logging](#) offers a assessment of illegal logging for the different countries that can be really useful.

Source: Own elaboration from "Las 75 especies de madera más utilizadas en España" (AEIM)

Other interesting sources of information based on the type of specie:

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: the main objective of this list is to catalogue those plants and animal species in risk of extinction.

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement between governments. It aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need and the limitations hence established to its trading.

When we have information about the region of origin

In this case, using the [Global Forest Registry](#) is also a good option to carry out a quick risk analysis. In the following section, the use and possibilities of this tool will be addressed.

Other interesting sources of information based on the region of origin of the products:

[Illegal Logging Portal:](#) Information about illegal logging and illegal forest products trading

For a more exhaustive risk assessment

If we want to know more information about the type of risk associated to a product, and always assuming that we have information about the origin of this product, a very useful tool is the [Global Forest Registry](#).

This tool allows us to have information at regional level, which can be interesting since the risk of illegality or controversial practices can vary greatly within some countries.

As well, in some occasions will be advisable for us to do a more exhaustive risk analysis since many times the risk can be associated to a very specific aspect that we can address.

The [Global Forest Registry](#) is a free information source about the risk of consuming timber products coming from controversial sources. The tool, developed by NEPCoN in collaboration with FSC has gathered public information available from more than 150 countries through a global interactive map that shows, using a binary system of colors, the existing type of risk in different areas. The use of this global map of risk analysis would be a quick option to do the superficial analysis commented in the previous section.



Figure 3. Global Forest Registry map

The [Global Forest Registry](#) provides very complete information about the types of risk based on the concept of “controversial sources”. This concept goes beyond illegality and it is based on the Controlled Wood Standard developed by FSC. This standard has the objective to avoid the use of timber products of unacceptable sources in products labelled FSC.

The following types of timber and timber products have to be avoided in the products FSC certified and therefore are considered as “controversial sources”.

- > Illegally harvested wood
- > wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights
- > wood harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values are threatened by management activities (HCVs are areas particularly worth of protection)
- > wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use
- > wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

These categories are the same used by [Global Forest Registry](#). The tool allows selecting all the categories, having global information about risk, or some specific category, providing more specific information about problems associated with forest exploitation in the area.

FSC has approved until now, risk evaluations for 14 countries. These reports can be downloaded from the [Global Forest Registry](#) web.

CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION AS GUARANTEES OF LEGALITY AND /OR RESPONSIBLE PRODUCT'S ORIGIN

This section is based on the stepwise approach for responsible purchasing of forest products developed by GFTN and introduced in section 1 of this guide. This approach allows us to classify the products we consumed in the different categories according to the information provided by our suppliers. This way, it will be easier for us to monitor the grade of application of our purchasing policy, establishing an action plan with clear objectives and even to communicate our performance level to external audiences.

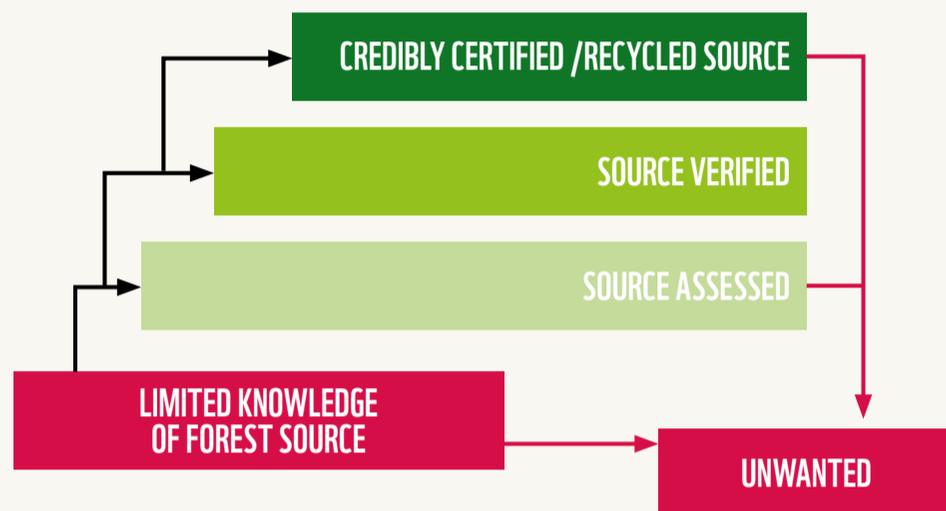


Figure 1. Methodology that helps companies to classify the products according to their environmental category

Figure 4 illustrates the classification process of forest products according to the environmental categories developed by the GFTN.

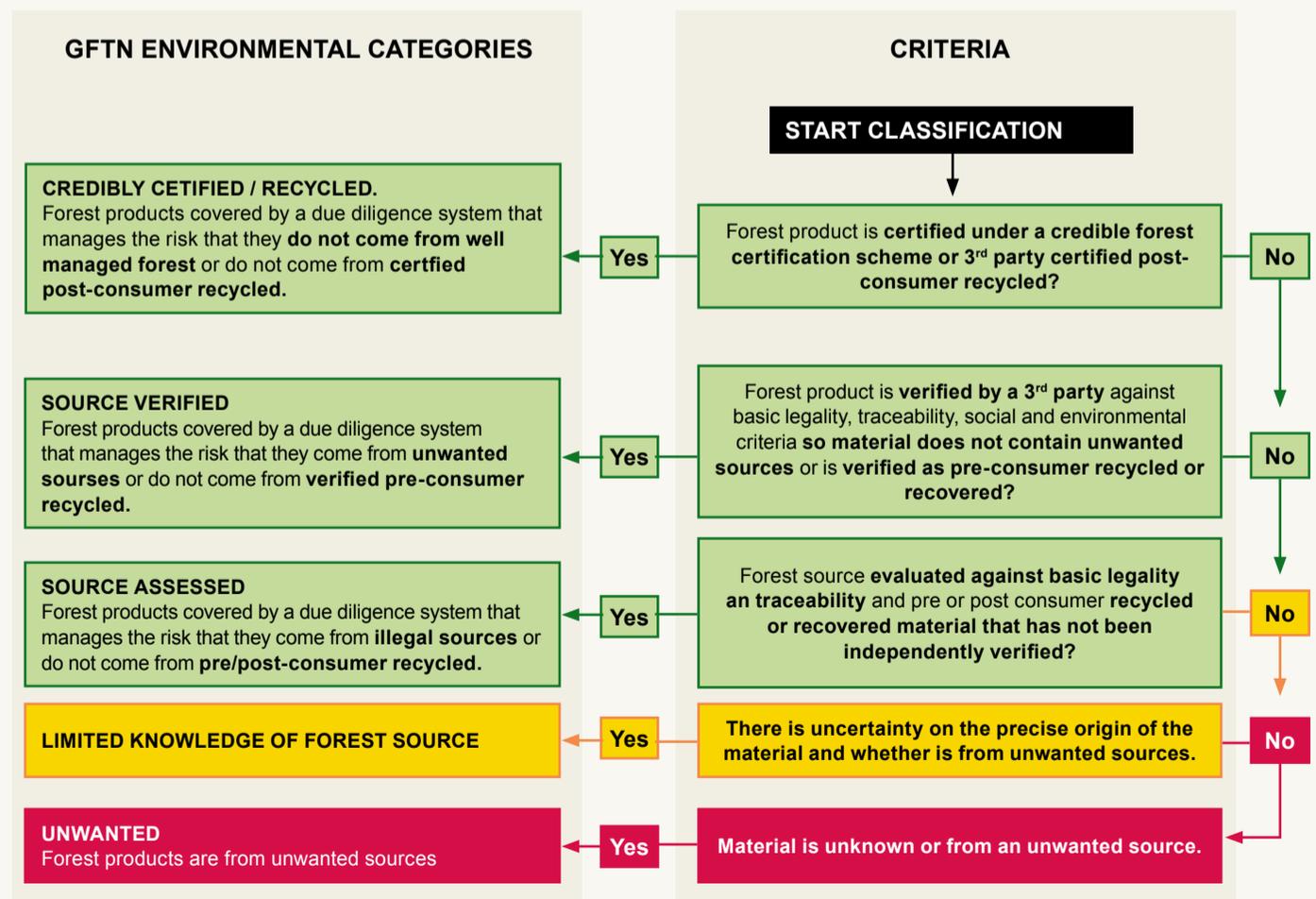


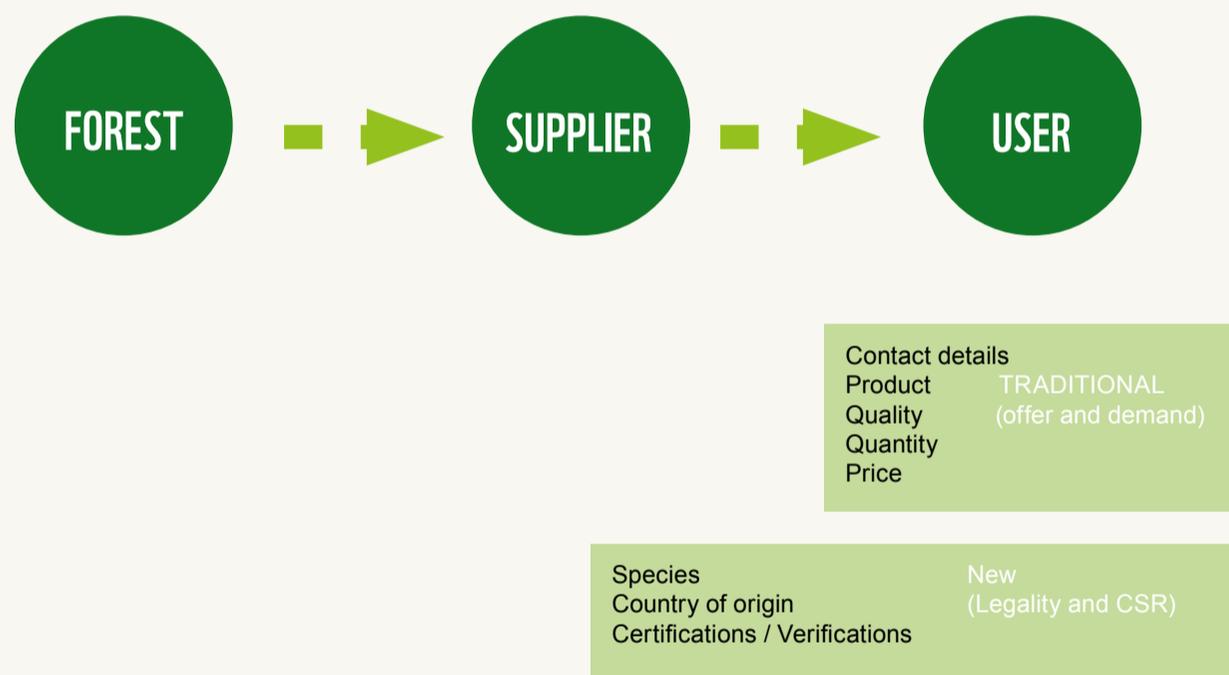
Figure 4. Classification process of forest products according to environmental categories developed by the GFTN

THE “DESIRABLE SCENARIO”: OUR SUPPLIERS PROVIDE SUFFICIENT GUARANTEES

The easiest scenario as consumers of forest products is to work with suppliers capable to provide enough information about the legal and/or sustainable origin of these products. Although currently, this does not always happen, it is the desirable scenario which we should tend to. Reaching it, will mean in many cases working together with our direct suppliers so they will be able to fulfil the requirements established by our purchasing policy.

In this “ideal scenario” we should add a series of variables to the information that we asked to our suppliers:

- > The necessary data to be able to do a risk analysis associated with the product: type of specie, country of timber origin and
- > Certifications, independent verifications or another guarantee about the legal and/or responsible origin of the products.



Which documentation should be requested to the suppliers?

In all this process it is important to take into account the fact that if a company is certified that does not imply that all its products are certified as well. Therefore, we have to request to our suppliers:

- Chain of custody certificate or legality verification and,
- A purchasing document where it is specified that the product they are selling to us is certified (bill or delivery note). Figure 5 illustrates the elements that an invoice of certified products must cover.

Once the information is received, we only have to check the certificate validity and if the type of products corresponds with the certification scope (i.e. if we are purchasing fiberboards, we should check that the certificate scope includes this type of products). Certification systems have developed databases that will allow us to make this verification. Databases of the main certification systems are available in the following links: [FSC](#), [PEFC](#).

FACTURA n°: XXXX
 Fecha: _____

Datos del
 suministrador

Datos cliente

Detalle	Cantidad	Precio
Tarima IPE	20m2	XXX
Ventanas 3x2 FSC	4 unid.	XXX
Total		XXX



100%
 Wood from well-
 managed forests
 FSC® C000000

En esta factura solo los productos marcados con FSC son certificados FSC

Figure 5. Information that must be included in the bill of certified products

When we are not in the “optimal scenario”

The situation, as consumers, becomes more complicated when we move beyond this “optimal scenario”. If our direct supplier cannot provide enough guarantees about the legal and/or sustainable origin of the product, the burden of ensuring the responsible origin would fall back into us. When the supply chain is not too long, this can be reasonable, but there will be cases in which the supply chain is long and complex and assuring the traceability of the product will become a very time and resources consuming labor. In these cases and, above all, if the product is considered of high risk, the simplest choice will be to look for alternative species or other supplier who can offer us enough guarantees.

List of the main forest certification and legality verification certificates

To facilitate the process of forest product classification that we consume in the different environmental categories, it is shown below an exhaustive list of independent certifications and verifications:

CERTIFICATION/VERIFICATION	COMMENTS
<u>FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)</u>	<p>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a certification system that ensure environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests.</p> <p>To consult WWF position about the different schemes of forest certification: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/forestry/certification/which_system/</p>
<u>FSC CW</u>	<p>The initials correspond to the category "Controlled Wood" of the FSC system. It covers non certified material that has been assessed against the unacceptable sources categories for FSC. More information in: http://es.fsc.org/madera-controlada.252.htm</p>
<u>PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)</u>	<p>To consult WWF position about the different schemes of forest certification: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/forestry/certification/which_system/</p> <p>WWF considers the PEFC system as a useful tool to manage the risk of illegality although of limited use when it is about addressing the risk associated to traditional and civil rights of communities, High Conservation Values, conversion and genetically modified organisms. This is mainly due to the WWF's concern of the lack of equitable and significant participation of groups of interest, transparency in decision making in the PEFC system and because of the weak requirements of field verifications.</p> <p>The Global Forest Risk Registry is a useful tool to identify those countries in which exist a high risk regarding to traditional and civil rights, High Conservation Values, conversion of forest surface and genetically modified organisms. In these cases, we must be aware of the limitations offered by the PEFC scheme.</p> <p>The PEFC system is also a forest certification system that to achieve an international presence has accepted other national forest certification schemes. This creates inconsistencies between different national standards approved by PEFC. On the other hand, at some point our suppliers can provide us certificates such as CERTFOR from Brazil or Chile, recognized by the PEFC system. In the following link it can be consulted the national certification systems that have been recognized by PEFC. http://pefc.org/index.php/standards/national-standards/endorsed-national-standards</p>
<u>NEPCon LegalSourceTM Standard (LS)</u>	<p>Verification system that accounts for basic criteria of legality and traceability. It does not include additional social and environmental criteria or an evaluation about controversial sources.</p>
<u>BV Origin and Legality of Wood (OLB)</u>	<p>Verification system that accounts for basic criteria of legality and traceability. It does not include additional social and environmental criteria or an evaluation about controversial sources.</p>
<u>Rainforest Alliance SmartWood Verification of Legal Compliance (VLC)</u>	<p>Verification system that accounts for basic criteria of legality and traceability. It does not include additional social and environmental criteria or an evaluation about controversial sources.</p>
<u>Soil Association Forest Verification of Legal Compliance (FVLC)</u>	<p>Verification system that accounts for basic criteria of legality and traceability. It does not include additional social and environmental criteria or an evaluation about controversial sources.</p>
<u>SCS Legal Harvest Verification (LHV)</u>	<p>Verification system that accounts for basic criteria of legality and traceability.</p>
<u>FLEGT VPA Licensed products</u>	<p>FLEGT licenses are an instrument developed in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan framework of the EU (FLEGT). These licenses are issued by a timber producer country that counts with a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU. The license is enough proof of legality. It was expected that the first timber products with FLEGT license would enter in the EU during 2014, but the deadline has been delayed and timber with type of license is still not commercialized in the EU. More information in: http://www.euflegt.efi.int/documents/10180/37877/fact_sheet_on_flegt-licensed_timber-apri13_ES.pdf/1d3591c8-a1ff-4a36-9874-d0bfe704841d</p>

Note: The report *Third party schemes tested against EUTR de la European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF)* has realized and evaluation of the certification and verification systems that fulfil the criteria established by the EUTR to mitigate the illegality risk .

THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE SPECIES

When we are working with species of high risk and it is not easy to find in the market products with enough guarantees of legal and sustainable origin, we can consider the use of lesser known species (LKS). Professionals in the construction field are normally used to work with a very limited number of species (such as Ipe, Iroko, Bubinga...). Consumers and professionals know very well these types of species, so it is normal that they are prescribed and used, but using a so limited range of species makes them, more expensive and difficult to obtain, and it benefits a very little sustainable model of forest exploitation. Once these species have been extracted, the forest no longer has commercial interest, in spite of counting with many other species that can be used for the same purposes than commercial species. The forest in this situation is much more vulnerable to land use changes (i.e. elimination of forest and its substitution for a crop field).

The unawareness, about which alternative species can be used, is the main cause that this situation endures. For trying to reverse it, WWF GFTN has developed a [guide about lesser known species](#) in which are presented different alternatives to commercial species.

ETTF (Spanish Timber Trade Federation) also has developed a guide covering the most commercialized species in Spain in which it is found information about species distribution, uses and technical characteristics. This information can be useful when looking for alternative species. To have access to this guide, consult with [AEIM](#).



Forest and timber procurement

12-15

millions of hectares of forests are lost every year

Origin

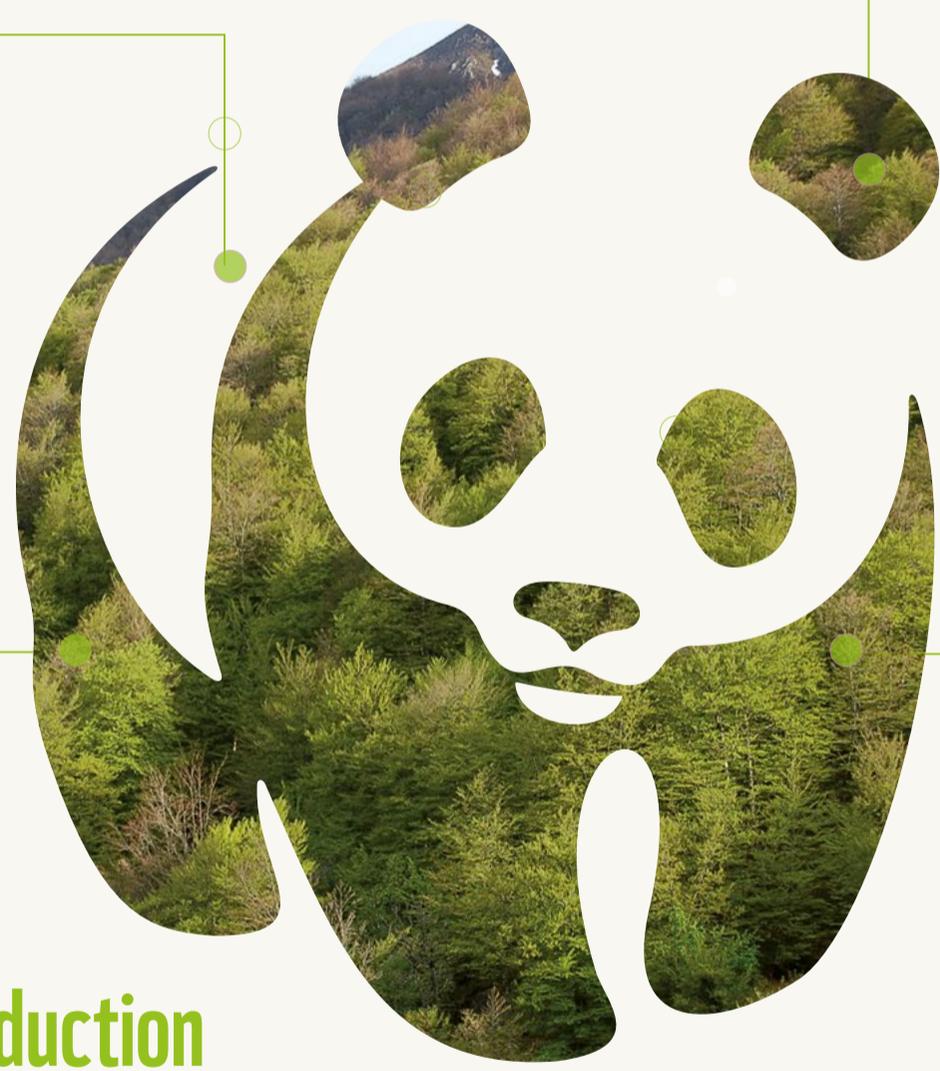
Responsible consumption is the best way to maintain forests

Production

Public Administrations and companies are key in order to improve a different production model

15%

of greenhouse gas emissions are produced by deforestation



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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