



13th International
Anti-Corruption Conference

IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop Workshop 5.3 Forest Governance and corruption:
preventing Illegal and Unsustainable Deforestation

Date and time of workshop November 1, 2008 14:00-16:00

Moderator (Name and Institution) Manoj Nadkarni Forest Governance and Integrity
Programme Manager, Asia Pacific Department, Transparency International

Rapporteur (Name and Institution) Samantha Grant, Asia Pacific Department,
Transparency International

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Bambang Setino, Research Fellow, Centre for International Forestry Research
Gustavo Faleiros, Journalist O Eco, Brazil
Julian Newman, Campaigns Director, Environmental Investigation Agency, UK

Main Issues Covered

The workshop focused on corruption and unsustainable forestry focusing on the following
themes:

Political corruption in timber trade
Foreign bribery
Forest licensing and concession
Certification process
Import export and procurement regulations/practices
Judicial corruption and poor due diligence of financial institutions



Main Outcomes

Deforestation is a cycle: In Brazil the state owns 60% of the Amazon but do not take care of it, so land rights are hard to determine. Once the land has been cleared, it makes it easier to sell and turn it into large farms, which brings local people in to work on the farms, creating a greater demand for cleared space.

Major drivers of deforestation:

Land clearing of oil and palm and coal mining

Overcapacity of wood based industries

Lack of local jobs

Local government autonomy

Lack of financial integrity

Major areas of Forestry crime:

Improper licensing for cutting to clearing forest

Weak supervision on timber movement

Overcapacity of wood based industries

No reinvestment in forest and local people

The timber trade is a very complex web of corruption, with timber and wood products being often to several countries in order to get around existing laws. Often even the laws that do exist are not well enforced, and aren't international so can easily be avoided by sneaking out of the country.

A lot of illegal logging is driven by demand for products, so you have to look at it from both the forest side and the market side.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

Regional agreements only work where all countries have the same interest, so ASEAN and SARC wouldn't be effective as you have both supply and demand countries.

Regional cooperation could be used to promote reforestation. Give small farmers benefits, as has been done in china, lesson could be shared from this experience.

A joint certification system as has been done in the Pacific forum brings together countries and would be a good model to replicate.

Anti corruption and environmental NGOs should be brought together to work on the problem of timber trade and deforestation.

Also Human Rights organizations should be consulted to focus on the human side of



the issue as well as climate change NGOs both internationally and locally.

Need for studies to further understand corruption in the forestry sector. Programmes such as the TI Forest Governance and Integrity Programme in Asia Pacific can work to find the weak links in the chain, so that advocacy can be focused on appropriate areas.

Informing communities (all over the world in developed and developing countries) about consumption of forest resources - can be a participatory way of setting limits.

Effort for informing communities must be sustainable effort, so a large international campaign would be necessary.

Must make linkages between what is going on the ground – creating pressure by showing the link and the whole chain and how it is unsustainable.

Academic information and scholarships for students to study would provide a way to bring in more information about where the real problems lie.

Use assessment tools kits, leading to a forest transparency initiative.

The role of civil society is very important. It is necessary to have sustainable engagement in developing countries and there is a great need for empower local civil society.

Having local (indigenous people on the ground) as watch dogs, and at the same time having technology (phones and satellite imaging to see what is happening).

These ideas will be used to start the ball rolling, and add to the TI Forest Governance and Integrity Programme in Asia Pacific.



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Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

Signed
