



Timber Legality Assessment Website

An online tool to help you import forest products

Global need

In October 2010, the European Commission adopted a new timber regulation that requires any company importing timber products into the EU to conduct “due diligence” to ensure that the timber has come from legal sources. However, as the global timber market is a complicated, multi-layered, and often informal market system, achieving and proving “due diligence” is complex. Tools are needed to achieve consistent and efficient ways to evaluate and classify risk related to the import of timber. The mandatory compliance is scheduled to take effect in March 2013.

Our solution

NEPCon seeks to create an online risk registry tool available to all who import forest products in the European Union to help determine if timber products were harvested legally and are in compliance with the new requirements. This tool will be provided free of charge to all users in an effort to help timber traders meet EU requirements and therefore mitigate the devastating effects of illegal logging around the globe.

In 2008, NEPCon launched **The Global Forest Registry** (www.globalforestregistry.org), a website providing companies with easy access to information on risk assessment regarding controversial sources of wood and fiber from

more than 150 countries. The Global Forest Registry is currently the only online risk assessment tool available to buyers of wood inputs that applies the same definition as the FSC™ Controlled Wood standards – standards that *must* be followed in order for products of mixed origin to carry the FSC certification label. The expertise gained from this project will be applied to the new timber legality assessment website. The legality website will enable users to easily identify the risks associated with sourcing timber from various countries and regions using a simple Google Earth-like interface.

Future use

As concerns about timber legality rise throughout the world, this tool can be designed to address similar initiatives in other parts of the world, such as the U.S. Lacey Act. In addition, it is also our intention that the webpage potentially be used as a basis for building future tools to evaluate risk and legality in other product markets.

Partnerships

NEPCon is reaching out to other NGOs who are also working in the field of illegal timber trade to build partnerships in the creation of this tool. We are focusing on organizations who are also concerned with EU and other international requirements in the field of timber risk assessment and have knowledge in this area.

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About NEPCon

NEPCon is a Danish-registered nonprofit organization, and partner of the Rainforest Alliance (a U.S. based NGO). Forestry is our core expertise area. We work to make certification an important instrument in securing the responsible utilisation of the world's forests, for the benefit of local communities, forest workers and wildlife.

Our core expertise is third-party certification and verification systems that serve this purpose, including Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) certification, Rainforest Alliance legality verification and verification of carbon forestry projects.

We implement innovative projects that result in new tools that can help to facilitate better forestry, responsible purchasing of wood products and conscientious consumer behavior. Our project work has also helped to establish protected areas and forests around the world as well as provide training and raise awareness for important target groups related to responsible forestry.

Needed support

We estimate that the proposed project activities will cost 80,000 EUR. We are currently seeking funding sources to help bring this project to fruition. Your contribution is essential for the success of the tool!

Proposed Project Activities:

Applying our experience and success in designing and launching the test version of the Global Forest Registry, NEPCon proposes to:

1. Build a website interface that will allow you to easily walk through a risk assessment process to determine if your wood inputs meet EU Illegal Timber Regulation requirements.
2. Conduct a data gathering process to build a database that will be the knowledge base for the risk assessment tool.
3. Develop a maintenance plan that will allow for continual updates and general technical maintenance of the site.

Contact Information

For more detailed information on this project, please contact:

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