

# FOREST TRENDS

***Call for Consultancy: Study to understand how implementation of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR) is impacting industry behavior and sourcing practices***

Forest Trends is commissioning a study to understand how implementation of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR) is impacting industry behavior and sourcing practices. This builds from earlier studies seeking to understand the impact and extent of EUTR implementation.

## Background

The EU Timber Regulation entered into force on 3 March 2013. Today, in 2020, after more than six years of implementation, the timber industry has significantly greater understanding and guidance on what is required when importing timber into the EU, to ensure compliance with the EUTR.

The European Commission has published guidelines for undertaking due diligence, assessing sourcing risks, and appropriate enforcement actions, which together clarify what importers are expected to do to prevent illegal timber being placed on the European single market. Competent Authorities have also phased enforcement actions over the six years the EUTR has been operational, with a view to supporting company compliance. Initially, importers were given time to understand the requirements and opportunities to make improvements after agency notifications of non-compliance. The extended time frames allowed importers to build their compliance capacity, but also, ultimately, allowed prosecutors to justify sanctions when companies continued to fail or respond inadequately to notifications.

Forest Trends is therefore conducting a study of Operators, or “first placers on the market” to understand in detail how industry behavior and sourcing practices are changing in order to reflect the guidance they have received and comply with the EUTR/UKTR.

## The study

### Forest Trends is seeking an individual/organization to:

- Conduct a total of at least 50 interviews with industry compliance officers/managers tasked with meeting sustainability commitments. This will involve phone or in-person interviews with at least 12 companies in each of 4-5 European Member States (ideally UK, Spain, Germany, France and the Netherlands). Additional European Member State interviews may be added subject to additional funding.
- Complete a pre-prepared survey template to document quantitative responses to the interview questions and write up notes on any additional/relevant qualitative insights provided by interviewee and/or a simple transcript.

### Minimum requirements for the individual/organization:

- The individual/organization must have a technical working-level writing, reading and speaking capacity in English, French, German and Spanish.
- Technical knowledge covering the timber legality requirements of the EUTR/UKTR.
- Discretion, diplomacy and a strong commitment to work closely with Forest Trends to determine when and how to contact companies.

### Forest Trends will provide:

- A full list of interview questions and a survey template for consolidating quantitative responses.

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- A list of at least 20 companies per EU Member State for the individual/organization to approach for interview. It will be expected that the individual/organization will complete interviews with at least 12-15 of the 20 companies.

## Activity Timeline

The study is expected to be carried out according to the following timeline:

| Date/Period                 | Activity   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| February 1-15 2020          | I. Forest Trends awards contract to individual/organization referred to as “consultant”<br>II. Initial planning meeting between Forest Trends and consultant to discuss the study, interviews, questions and approach<br>III. Forest Trends provides a list of interview questions and a survey template<br>IV. Forest Trends provides a list of 20 UK based companies for interview |
| February 17- March 6th 2020 | V. Consultant approaches 20 UK based companies and interviews at least 12-15<br>VI. Consultant completes survey template and submits to Forest Trends  |
| March 9th-March 20th 2020   | VII. Forest Trends reviews UK data<br>VIII. Forest Trends and consultant meet to discuss the UK data and agree any necessary edits on piloting the approach<br>IX. Forest Trends provides a list of 20 companies in each of Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands for interview<br>X. Consultant starts to approach companies in Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands     |
| March 20th-May 1st 2020     | XI. Consultant interviews at least 12-15 companies in each of Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands<br>XII. Consultant completes survey template and submits to Forest Trends<br>XIII. Forest Trends reviews data<br>XIV. Forest Trends and consultant meet to discuss the full data  |

To express interest in carrying out the study, please send a short proposal, budget and CV(s) to outline how the activities will be delivered.

Please send all materials to:

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