



Timber Legality Risk Dashboard: Mexico

Drafted as of: August 2021

Risk Score: 69.6 (Higher-Risk^a)¹

Conflict State: NO²

Log or Sawnwood Export Restriction in Effect: NO³

Import Regulation in Effect: NO

- Estimates suggest that between 30 percent and 70 percent of all wood harvested in Mexico is illegal, amounting to between 5 and 14 million m³ of illegal supply annually.
- Illegal logging is tied with organized crime, drugs, and human trafficking as well as human rights violations.
- Violence is forcing displacement of farmers and indigenous peoples from their lands and increasing the risk of exploitation within the wood harvesting and processing industry.
- Enforcement has been weakened in recent years as a result of austerity measures, and corruption at all levels perpetuates the high rates of illegal logging and low seizure rates.
- Imports account for a significant proportion of the timber processed in Mexico.
- While Mexico sources sawnwood from some low-risk countries such as the U.S. and Canada, a sizeable amount of hardwood is imported from high-risk source countries.
- To date, despite efforts to develop a timber import regulation, Mexico still lacks effective and enforceable import controls.
- There are reports of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) protected species being illegally exported to China.

TRADE PROFILE^{B,C,4}

Total Imports (2019): \$8.25 billion

Total Exports (2019): \$3.26 billion.
\$2.96 billion (84%) exported to
"regulated markets"^d

SUMMARY OF HIGHEST PRODUCT-LEVEL RISKS

Exports - Top Products Exported to the US by 2018 Value⁵

- Paper (HS48)
- Wood Furniture - Other (HS940360)
- Wood Furniture - Seating (HS940161 & HS940169)
- Wood Furniture - Bedroom (HS940350)
- Other Articles of Wood (HS4421)
- Flooring, Moulding & Strips (HS4409)
- Joinery Products (HS4418)
- Packing Cases & Pallets (4415)
- Wood Furniture - Kitchen (HS940340)
- Wood Furniture - Office (HS940330)

SUMMARY OF HIGHEST SPECIES-LEVEL RISKS

Illegal logging and trade affect many timber species, but highly valuable - often rare and endangered - species that are protected under harvest and/or trade regulations are a key target and at an elevated risk for illegality. The following species are either currently, or have recently, been protected in Mexico.

CITES-Listed Species:^{6,7,8}

Appendix I:

- **Balmea** (*Balmea stormiae*)
- **Fir** (*Abies guatemalensis*)

Appendix II:

- **Guaiacum** (*Guaiacum spp.*),
- **Mahogany** (*Swietenia humilis*, *Swietenia macrophylla*)
- **Rosewood** (*Dalbergia spp.*)
- *Cedrela spp.*
 - *Cedrela angustifolia* (synonym *Cedrela lilloi*)
 - *Cedrela discolor*
 - *Cedrela dugesii*
 - *Cedrela oaxacensis*
 - *Cedrela odorata*
 - *Cedrela salvadorensis*
 - *Cedrela tonduzii*

Harvested species in Mexico:¹⁰

Temperate species:

- **Alder** (*Alnus spp.*)
- **Fir** (*Abies spp.*)
- **Juniper** (*Juniperus spp.*)
- **Pine** (*Pinus spp.*)
- **Oak** (*Quercus spp.*)

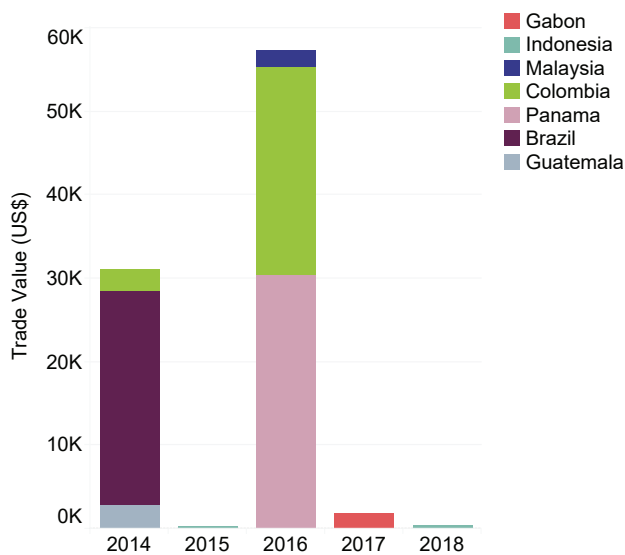
HIGH-RISK IMPORTED SPECIES ⁹		
Scientific name	Common name	HS code
BRAZIL		
<i>Dypterix Odorata</i>	Cumaru	HS4409
<i>Handroanthus spp.</i>	Ipe	HS4409
<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Teak	HS4409
PERU		
<i>Virola spp.</i>	Cumala	HS4407 and HS4409
<i>Dipteryx odorata</i>	Shihuahuaco or Cumaru	HS4407 and HS4409
<i>Cedrelinga catenaeformis</i>	Tornillo	HS4407 and HS4409

Tropical species:

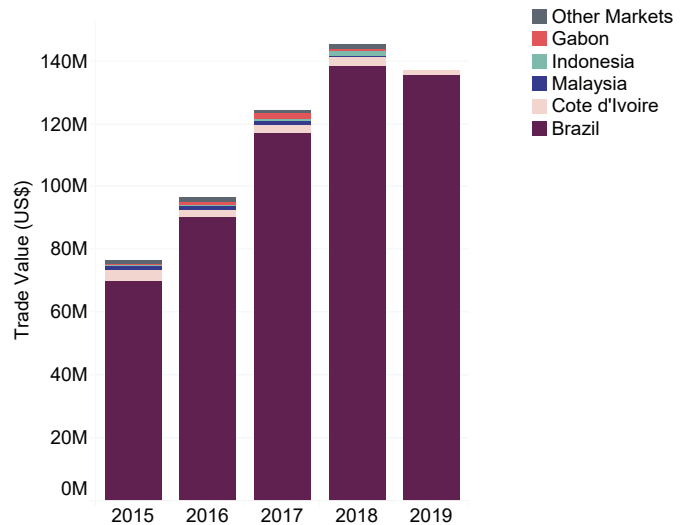
- **Black Poisonwood** (*Metopium brownei*)
- **Cedar** (*Cedrela odorata*)
- **Granadillo** (*Platymiscium yucatanum*)
- **Gregorywood** (*Terminalia buceras* - synonym *Bucida buceras*)
- **Katalox** (*Swartzia cubensis* - synonym *Swartzia lundellii*)
- **Machiche** (*Lonchocarpus castilloi*)
- **Mahogany** (*Swietenia macrophylla*)
- **Sapodilla** (*Manilkara zapota*)
- **Ziricote** (*Cordia dodecandra*)

Mexico also imports a small percentage of logs and sawnwood from countries with an active log or sawnwood export restriction in place. Many of the export restrictions in the source countries only apply to specific species. As such, the presence of a log export restriction (LER) or sawnwood export restriction (SER) signals a need for additional risk assessment and mitigation actions to ensure that the import of logs or sawnwood from these countries does not violate the specific laws and regulations of the source country.¹¹

LOG IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES WHERE ADDITIONAL DUE DILIGENCE IS NEEDED DUE TO AN ACTIVE LOG EXPORT RESTRICTION¹² (2014-2018)^{E,13}



SAWNWOOD IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES WHERE ADDITIONAL DUE DILIGENCE IS NEEDED DUE TO AN ACTIVE SAWNWOOD EXPORT RESTRICTION¹⁵ (2015-2019)¹⁴



FORESTRY SECTOR

Forested Area: 65.69 million ha (12.52% protected^f)^{16,17}

Deforestation Rate: 0.2% annually¹⁸

Forest Ownership:^{9,19}

- 2.4 million ha publicly-owned (3.6%)
- 52.6 million ha privately-owned (79.3%)
- 11.3 million ha other/unknown ownership (17.0%)

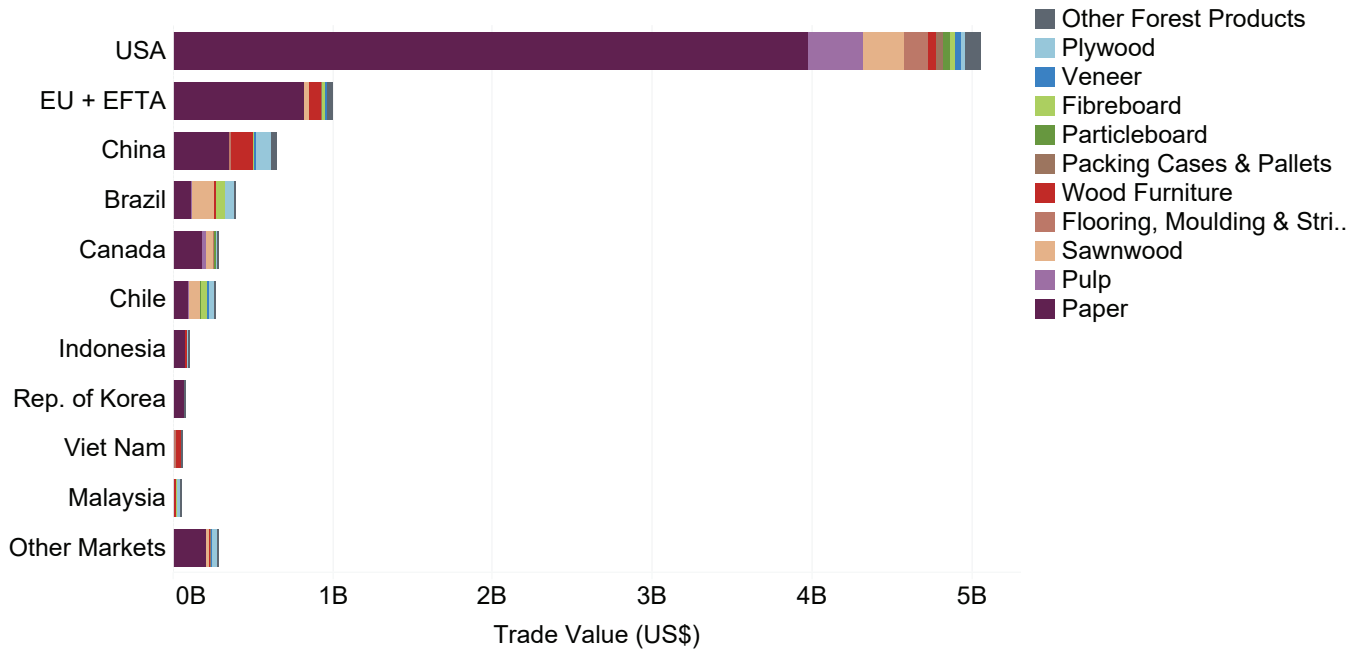
Certified Forests:

- FSC Certification: 1.29 million ha (2019)²⁰
- MFCS Certification: 902 thousand ha (2016)²¹

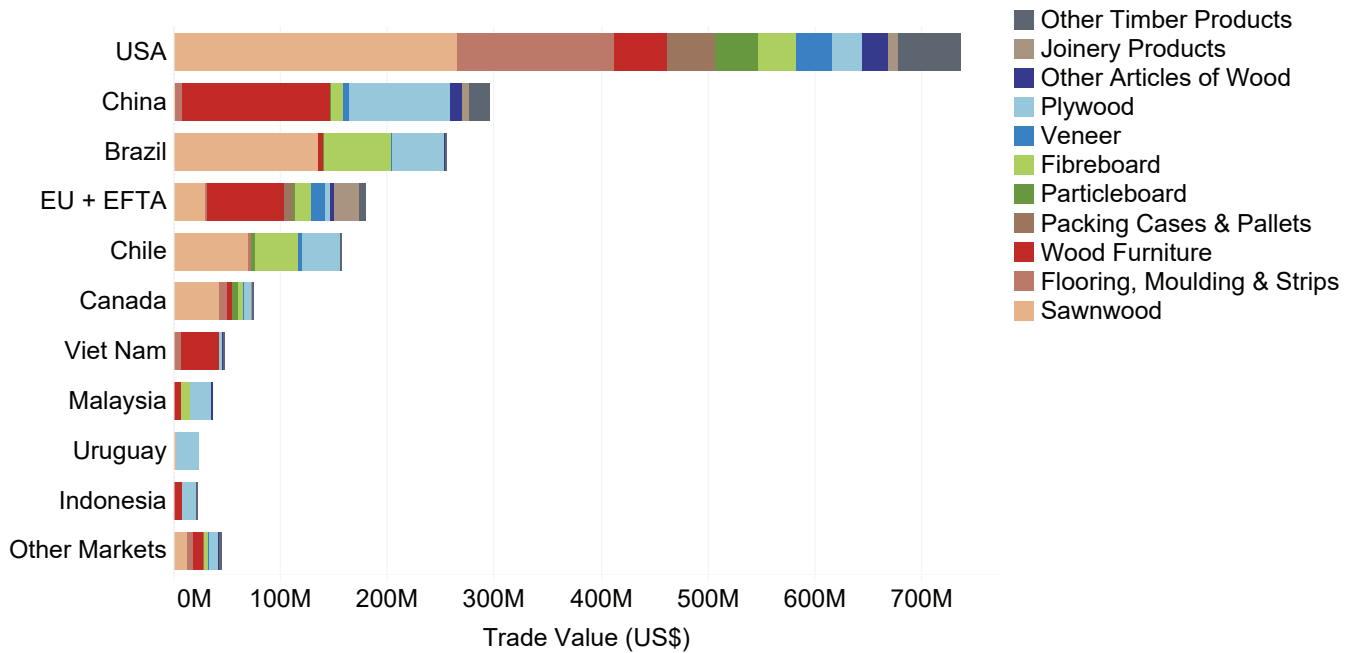
Domestic Production (2019):²²

- Wood Fuel: 38.60 million m³ (2019)
- Logs: 7.96 million m³ (2019)
- Sawnwood: 3.36 million m³ (2019)
- Particleboard: 754 thousand m³ (2019)
- Veneer: 350 thousand m³ (2019)
- Wood Chips: 266 thousand m³ (2019)
- Plywood: 225 thousand m³ (2019)
- Fibreboard: 64 thousand m³ (2019)
- Paper: 16.16 million metric tonnes (2019)
- Pulp: 3.16 million metric tonnes (2019)
- Charcoal: 106 thousand metric tonnes (2019)
- Wood Pellets: 4 thousand metric tonnes (2019)

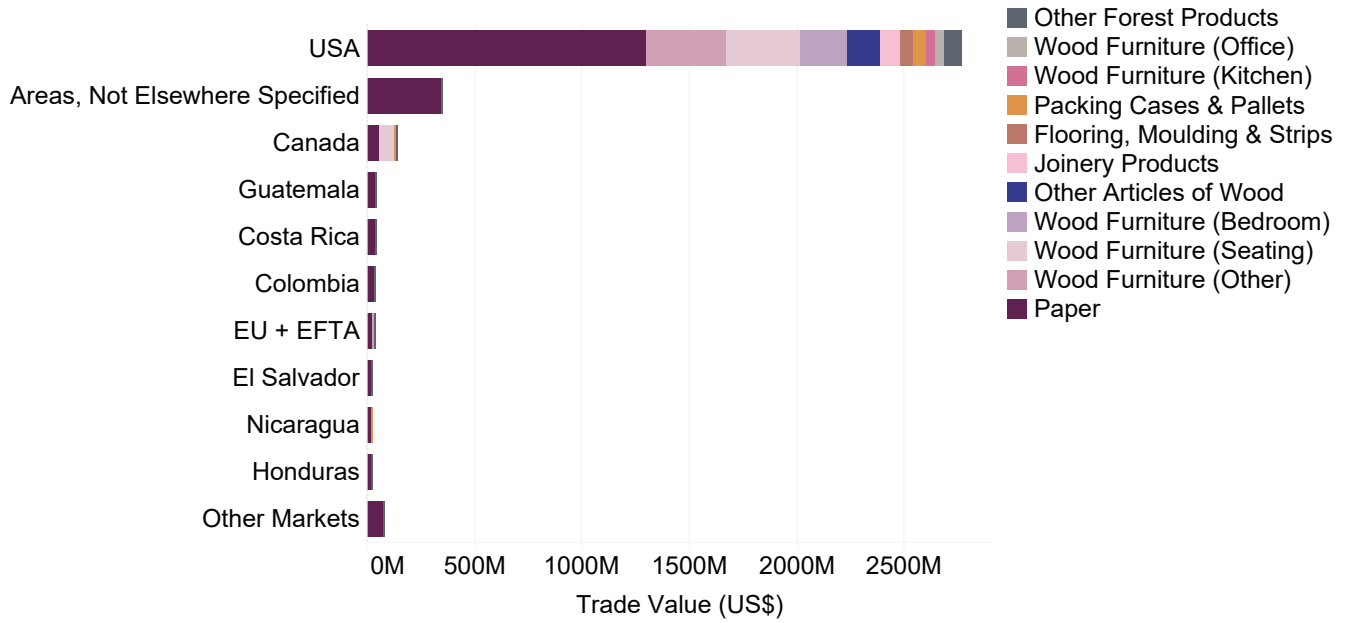
MEXICO'S TOP SOURCE MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS BY IMPORT VALUE (2019)^{H,23}



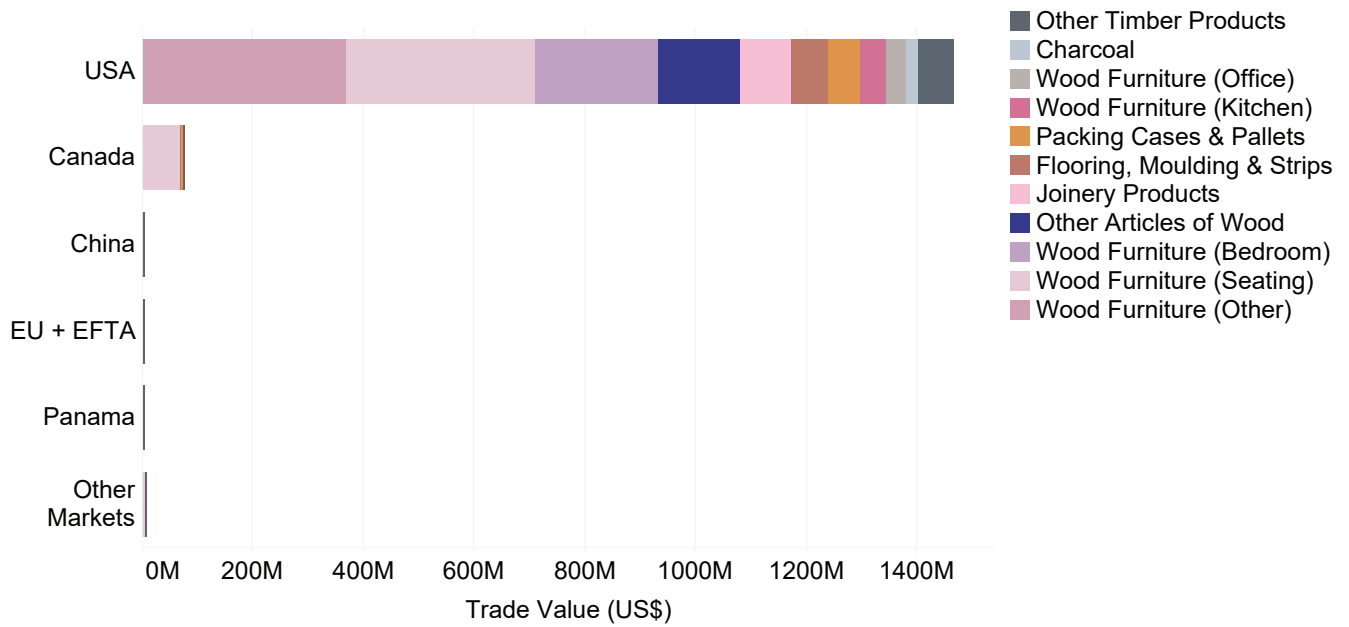
MEXICO'S TOP SOURCE MARKETS FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS BY IMPORT VALUE (2019)²⁴



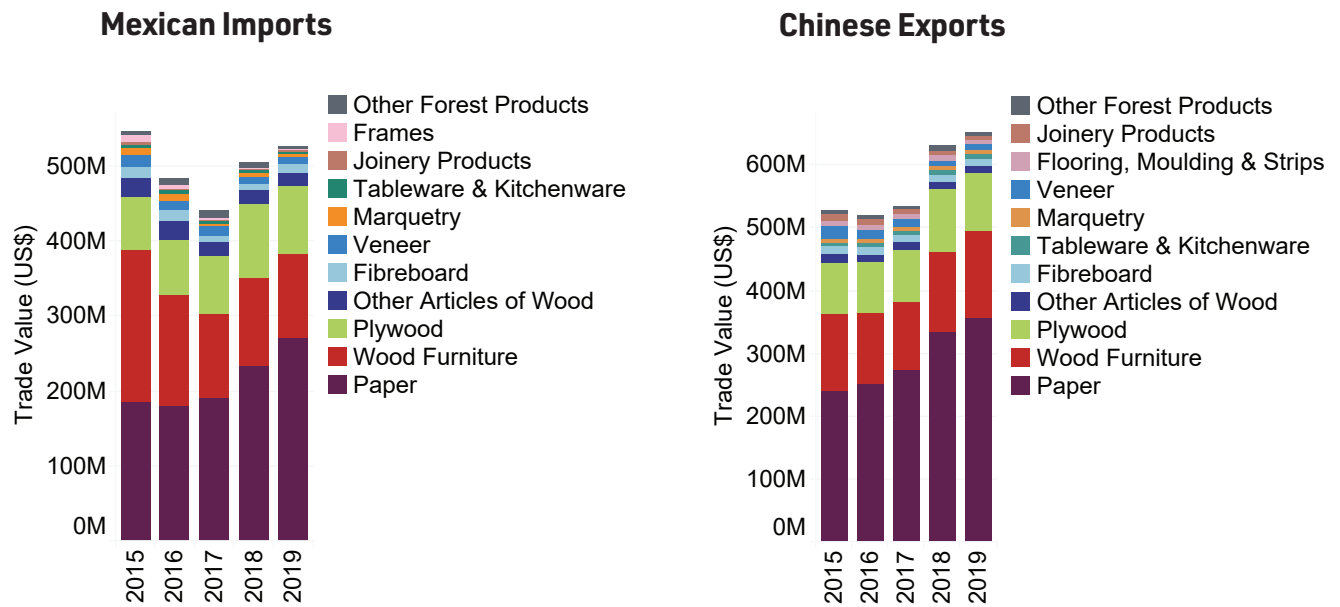
MEXICO'S TOP DESTINATION MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS BY EXPORT VALUE (2019)²⁵



MEXICO'S TOP DESTINATION MARKETS FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS BY EXPORT VALUE (2019)²⁶



TRADE DISPARITIES: MEXICAN IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND CHINESE EXPORTS TO MEXICO (2015 - 2019)^{27,28}



TIMBER LEGALITY

- Estimates suggest that between 30 percent and 70 percent of all wood harvested in Mexico is illegal, amounting to between 5 and 14 million m³ of illegal supply annually.

Mexico's forest area accounts for approximately 65.7 million hectares covering one third of the country.^{29,30} Temperate forests cover about 16 percent of the country and are predominantly situated in the Sierra Madre Occidental, Oriental, Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt in Central Mexico, Sierra Norte of Oaxaca, and in the south of Chiapas; they are dominated by pine species (*Pinus* spp.) and, to a lesser extent, oak (*Quercus* spp.), fir (*Abies* spp.), alder (*Alnus* spp.), and juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), among others.³¹ Tropical forests cover around 4.7 percent of Mexico's territory and are concentrated in the Yucatan Peninsula, in the states of Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Campeche and Yucatan as well as in parts of the Pacific foothills and coast, such as Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas. Species include mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), black poisonwood (*Metopium brownei*), sapodilla (*Manilkara zapota*), granadillo (*Platymiscium yucatanum*), machiche (*Lonchocarpus castilloi*), gregorywood (*Bucida buceras*), katalox (*Swartzia lundelli*) and ziricote (*Cordia dodecandra*), among others.^{32,33}

The National Forest Commission of Mexico (Comisión Nacional Forestal- CONAFOR) reports that logging is currently permitted on around 6.08 million hectares of forestland with an estimated timber harvest rate of 7.2 million m³ per year.³⁴ Over 70 percent of this production comes from the states of Chihuahua, Durango, Michoacan, Oaxaca, and Veracruz.^{35,36} Nearly 80 percent of timber production is estimated to originate from community forestland.³⁷

Governmental and non-governmental sources estimate that between 30 percent and 70 percent of all wood harvested in Mexico is illegal amounting to between 5 and 14 million m³ of illegal supply annually.³⁸ The range reflects estimates from the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA), the national environmental enforcement agency which reported in 2010 that between 5 and 7 million m³ a year was illegally harvested.^{39,40} A more recent estimate shows a similar average rate of illegal logging for the last twenty years, holding at 6 to 7 million m³ a year.⁴¹ The National Autonomous University of Mexico

(UNAM) and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) have indicated that there is an illegal commercial wood supply of about 14 million m³ representing at least 70 percent of sourced wood in the country.^{42,43,44} InSight Crime estimated that the illegal timber trade generates between \$106 million and \$175 million per year (based on an estimate that between 30 percent and 50 percent of all wood harvested in Mexico is illegal).⁴⁵

Although illegal logging is widely distributed throughout the country, it is more prevalent in regions with a large market for sawn timber products, semi-finished products, or firewood; in regions with land disputes, including those in protected areas with forest management restrictions in areas where there are obviously absentee owners (particularly private owners); or groups of forest communities with internal difficulties, low social cohesion and accountability problems, an absence of timber harvest permits, and located either just inside and outside the perimeter of natural protected areas.^{46,47,48}

Recent analysis suggests that the period since 2009 has seen growth in manufacturing and construction industries in Mexico increasing demand for inputs, including sawnwood, which have used illegally logged timber.⁴⁹ Much of the timber illegally logged in Mexico is reportedly used in construction, furniture and paper products that mainly remain on the domestic market. Domestic sawn wood prices are reportedly higher than international prices and domestic sawn wood has been more highly sought after than international sawn wood by the construction and manufacture industries.^{50,51}

- **Illegal logging is tied with organized crime, drugs, and human trafficking as well as human rights violations.**

Illegal logging is often carried out by outsiders or organized gangs, rather than the farm communities that own the land, and increasingly overlaps with drug, and human trafficking as criminal gangs seek to establish other illicit revenue streams.^{52,53,54} The presence of criminal gangs in the timber market has substantially changed the scale and power of illegal logging in Mexico.⁵⁵

Criminal groups have begun to see potential profits in the illegal timber industry itself and have reportedly started taking over the ownership of sawmills or forcing mills to process illegally-sourced wood.^{56,57} InSight Crime reports that timber gangs connected to drug groups will arrive at sawmills with truckloads of illegally logged timber where mills buy and process the illegally-sourced wood and then launder the processed wood into the legally-sourced timber supply for sale to construction companies and secondary processing plants.⁵⁸ Once the sawmill processes the wood into lumber, it is virtually impossible to determine whether it was logged legally or not. The sawmills that are not part of organized-crime groups may be forced to receive and process shipments of illegally logged wood. In some cases, the sawmills process the wood and return it to criminal groups as 'clean' lumber.^{59,60} Transit of timber also reportedly facilitates the transport of drugs which has made the timber trade attractive to drug traffickers.⁶¹ In some other instances, falling drug prices have reportedly driven cartels to expand production of marijuana and poppy fields, clear-cutting forests and displacing families. In such instances, the timber is not the primary objective of the illegal deforestation but is a byproduct of attempts to expand drug production.⁶²

For example, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime reports in 2021 that criminal groups are increasingly involved in the illegal timber trade in the northern state of Chihuahua which borders the United States.^{63,64} The state's governor, Javier Corral, announced in a 2020 press conference that illegal logging has become an important source of revenue for drug trafficking organizations looking to expand their criminal portfolios.⁶⁵ The illicit timber trade within Chihuahua is reportedly concentrated in the south and west in and around Maguarichi, Guerrero, Uruachi, Ocampo and Madera, as well as Guadalupe y Calvo and Bocoyna, where criminal groups have set up clandestine sawmills used to process wood illegally harvested wood from the surrounding forests.⁶⁶

The convergence of timber and drug trafficking has added another layer to the fighting. In Michoacán state located in west-central Mexico, cartels like the Viagras and the Nuevo Cartel Jalisco have escalated violence as they fight to gain control of the illegal logging industry.⁶⁷

Criminal groups have also dragged transport companies and individual truck drivers into the illegal trade, reportedly requiring them to mix illegally harvested timber with their legal supply. InSight Crime reports that refusal to participate with the criminal groups in laundering illegal timber can be met with violence or murder.⁶⁸

- **Violence is forcing displacement of farmers and indigenous peoples from their lands and increasing the risk of exploitation within the wood harvesting and processing industry.**

Violence against farmers, indigenous communities and local activists reached a record high in 2020.⁶⁹ The Mexican Center for Environmental Rights (CEMDA) reported a twenty percent increase in the murder rate compared to 2019. In addition, there were at least 90 attacks against activists, communities, and NGOs defending natural heritage and lands across Mexico in 2020.⁷⁰ The majority of these attacks were reportedly tied to illegal logging and building roads with most attacks occurring in the states of Chiapas, Campeche, Mexico City, Chihuahua, Veracruz, and Guerrero.⁷¹ Forcible displacement tied to the violence also can increase vulnerability to further exploitation, particularly for indigenous communities and young people.⁷²

Child labor or teenage employees may be found working directly in logging operations or in sawmills. In states such as Chihuahua and Chiapas, teenage workers may be forcibly recruited, deceived into accepting employment or lured by the promise of high wages or the perceived glamour of working for an organized-crime group.⁷³ The children are sometimes engaged by outside employers in hazardous work and are also be exposed to violence at the hands of criminal groups. In San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, there have been reports that children work sanding out the curves in lumber, sometimes under the watch of armed guards.⁷⁴ There were also reports of child labor in sawmills in Chihuahua, where children under the age of 15 reportedly work in the packing, transport and cleaning of sawdust in sawmills or may be employed as *halcones* "watchmen".⁷⁵

- **Enforcement has been weakened in recent years as a result of austerity measures, and corruption at all levels perpetuates the high rates of illegal logging and low seizure rates.**

While reports suggest that there have been significant improvements in policing and enforcement against illegal logging particularly in protected areas since 2010, recent government funding cuts have translated into increases in environmental crimes including illegal logging in protected areas since 2020.^{76,77,78} The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that strong enforcement efforts by the environmental police division of the National Gendarmerie, part of the Federal Police, led to a 94 percent decline in illegal logging in 2016-2017 compared to the 2015-2016 period in the Michoacán butterfly reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site.^{79,80} In fact, the program called Environmental Mission, implemented by CONANP, the Natural Protected Areas Commission, and the environmental police was reportedly fundamental in diminishing and preventing illegal logging in the 16 national protected areas where it was deployed.⁸¹

However, recent austerity measures have meant that the Mexican government has reduced funding for protected areas and environmental enforcement.⁸² This has led to the number of enforcement officials guarding the Michoacán butterfly reserve being cut from a high of about 180 to about 25.⁸³ With these cuts, there has been a reported increase in the rates of illegal logging and violence in the reserve. PROFEPA released a statement in 2020 reporting that it had detected the illegal cutting of 200 cedar, oak and fir trees in the reserve.⁸⁴ Illegal logging rose to almost 13.4 hectares (33 acres) in 2020/2021, a huge increase from the 0.43 hectare (1 acre) lost to logging the year before.⁸⁵ Two men connected to environmental and enforcement measures in the butterfly reserve were murdered in 2020.⁸⁶

Outside protected areas, enforcement is weak and challenged by criminal networks and corruption. Reports indicate that seizures of illegal timber represent only around 30,000 m³ a year, or just 0.2 percent of the estimated volume of illegal wood harvested each year.⁸⁷

There is reportedly limited government oversight of sawmills where illegal timber is often laundered into supply chains.⁸⁸ While authorities have shut down sawmills and wood collection points in Chihuahua as a result of illegal laundering, these actions have been reportedly mostly "symbolic".^{89,90} A lack of labor inspections, lax oversight of government supply chains and insufficiently resourced and trained bodies to enforce regulations are all reportedly issues alongside corruption.⁹¹

Investigations into the violence and murders have also indicated that corruption is a significant challenge particularly impacting local level enforcement. In 2020, the Chihuahua state investigation into the murder of Cruz Soto Caraveo who had been forcibly displaced from the Sierra Tarahumara by cartels looking to expropriate the land, eventually led to the arrest of two people who allegedly took part in his abduction and killing, one of which was the local police chief.^{92,93}

- **Imports account for a significant proportion of the timber processed in Mexico.**

According to SEMARNAT, Mexico legally produces around one third of the wood it consumes. The rest of the demand is met by illegally harvested domestic timber or imports.⁹⁴ As of 2017, Mexico had a trade deficit of 11,619 million m³ for wood products and 20,119 m³ million for pulp and paper.⁹⁵

Mexico's top imported timber product is sawnwood which is reportedly mostly used for the construction (60 percent)^j and manufacturing sectors.^{96,97} Analysis of import data for 2017 shows that Mexico imported around 4.5 million m³ of sawnwood (HS 4407), with the majority sourced from United States^k (37 percent of all imports in terms of volume), Chile (23 percent), Brazil (11 percent), Canada (7 percent) and Indonesia (5 percent).⁹⁸ By comparison, Mexico's reported domestic production of sawnwood in 2018 amounted to around 3.4 million m³.⁹⁹ This means that sawnwood or finished products manufactured in Mexico constructed from sawn boards are 57 percent likely to include imported timber.¹⁰⁰

- **While Mexico sources sawnwood from some low-risk countries such as the U.S. and Canada, a sizeable volume of hardwood is imported from high-risk source countries.**

Mexico imports from a range of higher risk source countries including Brazil and Peru as well as high-risk species from China and several African range states. A significant number of Mexico's source countries rank high globally for governance challenges and corruption, or are listed on the World Bank's list of fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS) indicating significant challenges for respective governments to maintain the rule of law.¹⁰¹ Complicity of government officials in corruption in many states compromises the enforcement of laws and regulations relating to forest protection and management, and suggests an increased risk of supplying illegal wood.

Peru is one of the top sources of tropical timber imported into Mexico. Evidence suggests shipments carrying illegal timber have in the past been imported without any legal consequence.^{102,103}

It is unclear what proportion of such timber is consumed domestically or is transformed in Mexico and later re-exported as a finished product. Traceability within the sector is lacking, making it very difficult for buyers to assess accurately the legality of timber products. However, there is a risk that Mexican timber products exported to international markets may use wood sourced from domestic illegal and legal sources that are mixed or laundered with imported timber from high-risk countries.

- **To date, despite efforts to develop a timber import regulation, Mexico still lacks effective and enforceable import controls.**

In 2018, a new Forestry Law passed by Congress required importers for the first time to "validate the legal origin" of imported forest products in the terms that the Law and its Regulation established.^l In 2020, about two and a half years after the publication of the Forestry Law,^m the Mexican government published the Regulation of the Forestry Law with the specific requirements on importers.^{104,105} This was a significant step forward for Mexico and demonstrates the government's commitment to develop regulations to prevent the import of illegally sourced timber.

However, the Regulation states that importers can "validate" the legal origin of imported timber with just two documents: a) transport permit issued by Mexico's Ministry of Environment; and b) customs declaration.ⁿ As such, the concept of *legal origin of imported timber* embedded in the Regulation does not currently reflect a requirement to demonstrate compliance with laws in the country of origin or harvest of the timber. The Regulation also does not currently require importers to conduct due diligence to minimize the risk of importing illegal timber. As such, the Regulation currently lacks provisions to sufficiently ensure that illegal timber is prevented from entering the Mexican market for either domestic consumption or for transformation and re-export as a finished product to international markets.

- **There are reports of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) protected species being illegally exported to China.**

Harvesting and trade of CITES-listed species is reportedly happening in protected areas like the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and communal lands in Southwest Mexico. Reports indicate that organized criminal networks harvest *Dalbergia granadillo* with the use of minors that act as "watchmen" during the harvesting process and with an apparent complicity with enforcement officials. Misdeclaration of the species enables its export, mainly to China.^{106,107,108} Enforcement reports indicate that exports depart Mexico from the ports on the Pacific coast and the Yucatan peninsula. Photographs from enforcement operations show timber being exported as logs.^{109,110,111,112,113}

REPORTS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A list of relevant reports and additional online tools to complement this country report are also available at the IDAT Risk website: <https://www.forest-trends.org/fptf-idat-home/>

Key Reading:

1. Gobierno de México, Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR. 2021. "Estado que Guarda el Sector Forestal en México, Bosques para el Bienestar Social y Climático, 2020." CONAFOR. <http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/1/7825El%20Estado%20que%20guarda%20el%20Sector%20Forestal%20en%20M%20c3%a9xico%202020.pdf>
2. Gobierno de México, Comisión Nacional Forestal. 2021. "Programa Anual de Trabajo 2021." CONAFOR. https://www.conafor.gob.mx/transparencia/docs/2021/PAT_2021_CONAFOR.pdf
3. Torres-Rojo, Juan Manuel. 2021. "Illegal Logging and the Productivity Trap of Timber Production in Mexico." *Forests* 12, no. 7. <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/12/7/838/htm>
4. Bonello, Deborah. 2020. "How Drug Cartels Moved into Illegal Logging in Mexico" *InSight Crime*, September 18. <https://insightcrime.org/investigations/drug-cartels-illegal-logging-mexico/>
5. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, GITOC. 2020. "People and Forest at Risk. Organized crime, trafficking in persons and deforestation in Chihuahua, Mexico." Wagner, L., D. Siller and R. Landa. https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mexican.Illegal.Logging.22.04.v1.final_.pdf

METHODOLOGY & TERMINOLOGY NOTES

- ^b Risk scores reflect Preferred by Nature's Timber Risk Assessment which measures the risk of illegality occurring in 21 areas of law relevant to timber legality, as well as Forest Trends' national governance scores which provides an average relative governance and corruption risk score for 211 countries globally. Preferred by Nature's scores have been flipped to ensure compatibility with Forest Trends' national governance scores, where higher scores are associated with greater governance and corruption challenges. An average of both the Preferred by Nature and Forest Trends scores has been calculated for 66 countries where both are available as of 2021. For all other countries, the risk score reflects Forest Trends' national governance scores. Countries scoring less than 25 are considered "Lower Risk," countries scoring between 25 and 50 are "Medium Risk" and countries scoring above 50 are "Higher Risk." It is important to note that it is possible to source illegal wood from a well-governed, "Lower Risk" state and it is also possible to source legal wood from a "Higher Risk" country. As such, the risk scores can only give an indication of the likely level of illegal logging in a country and ultimately speaks to the risk that corruption and poor governance undermines rule of law in the forest sector.
- ^b The term "forest products" is used to refer to timber products (including furniture) plus pulp and paper. It covers products classified in the Combined Nomenclature under Chapters 44, 47, 48 and furniture products under Chapter 94. While the term "forest products" is often used more broadly to cover non-timber and non-wood products such as mushrooms, botanicals, and wildlife, "forest products" is used to refer to timber products plus pulp and paper in this dashboard.
- ^c Except where otherwise specified, all trade statistics and chart data is sourced from UN Comtrade, compiled and analyzed by Forest Trends.
- ^d Regulated markets reflect countries and jurisdictions that have developed operational measures to restrict the import of illegal timber. As of 2021, this included the U.S., Member States of the European Union (as well as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Australia, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam. Some measures are more comprehensive in scope, implementation, and enforcement than others.
- ^e Mexico reported no log imports from LER countries in 2019.
- ^f Percentage as of 2017 according to FAO FRA, "Global Forest Resources Assessment, Mexico" published in 2020.
- ^g Forest ownership as of 2015 according to FAO FRA, "Global Forest Resources Assessment, Mexico" published in 2020.

- ^h All references to “EU + EFTA” signify the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- ⁱ As per the National Autonomous University in Mexico (UNAM) the volume of illegal timber production is of around 14 million cubic meters of timber [per year]; while the seizures by the environmental enforcement authority PROFEPA are less than 30,000 cubic meters.
- ^j According to Torres-Rojo the housing industry in Mexico uses a limited amount of sawn wood as a building material since most formal housing is composed of concrete and bricks. The introduction of new building material (apparent, plastic, and recycled) has had a minimal effect on the demand for sawn wood for this sector since it is mostly used in the building process, as supporting material, scaffolding, and as molding and support material for when concrete is poured.
- ^k According to Torres-Rojo a high percentage of conifer sawn wood imports from the United States are processed industrially in companies located on the U.S.-Mexico border and free zones with the USA and returned to that country in the form of finished products. These imported woods are used to manufacture wood moldings, bookshelves, furniture, and frames.
- ^l Article 91 of the Forestry Law.
- ^m The Regulation should have been published 180 days after the entry into force of the new Forestry Law. The New Forestry Law entered into force on June 6, 2018.
- ⁿ Article 99 of the Regulation of the Forestry Law published on December 9, 2020.

WORKS CITED

- 1 Forest Trends. 2021. “Global Illegal Deforestation and Associated Trade (IDAT) Risk Data Tool—Summary of Data and Methodology.” Forest Trends. Accessed August 17, 2021. <https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Methodology-for-ILAT-Risk-Data-Tool-March-2020.pdf>.
- 2 World Bank Group’s Fragile, Conflict and Violence Group. 2021. “Harmonized List of Fragile Situations.” World Bank Group’s Fragile, Conflict and Violence Group. Accessed August 30, 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations>.
- 3 Forest Trends. 2021. “Known Forest Product Export Restrictions (FPER).” Forest Trends. Accessed August 17, 2021. <https://www.forest-trends.org/known-log-export-bans/>
- 4 United Nations Statistics Division. 2020. “UN Comtrade.” United Nations Statistics Division. Accessed June 30, 2020. <https://comtrade.un.org/data/>
- 5 Forest Trends. N.d. “ILAT Risk Data Tool.” Forest Trends. Accessed August 18, 2021. <https://www.forest-trends.org/fptf-ilat-home/>
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The Dashboards have been compiled from publicly available information sources to support risk assessments on the legality of timber products entering international supply chains. The Dashboards are for educational and informational purposes only. The Dashboards have been drafted with input from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and are subject to external peer review. The Dashboards will be updated periodically based on newly available information.

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