China’s Efforts in Advancing the Production and Trade of Legal timber and Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

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China’s Efforts in Advancing the Production and Trade of Legal Timber

Domestic Systems and Actions

1. Legislation System
2. Law Enforcement System
3. Actions of all stakeholder
China’s Efforts in Advancing the Production and Trade of Legal Timber

**1. Legislation System**

- Forest Law in 1979; Wildlife Conservation Law; Desertification Combating Law; etc.
- Related regulations on punishment procedure, supervision, etc.
- Criminal Law
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2. Law Enforcement System

- Forestry administrative bodies at all levels
- Forest police, fire control offices, plant quarantine agencies, natural reserve management offices, local forestry stations, etc.
- Over 200,000 persons
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3. Efforts of All Stakeholders

- **Government**
  - forest management, market access, awareness enhancement, etc.

- **Association and Federation**
  - self-discipline, promote certification, enhance awareness of industry, etc.

- **Company and Consumer**
  - awareness of purchasing legal timber, enhancing, attend activities to promote the production and trade of legal timber, etc.

- **Cooperation among the government, association, company and consumer.**
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International Level

1. Firm Standpoint and Principle
2. Active Actions
3. Broad International Cooperation
China’s Efforts in Advancing the Production and Trade of Legal Timber

1. Firm Standpoint and Principle

- **Standpoint**
  The Chinese government is consistent in the combating on international illegal logging and associated trade, and advance the production and trade of legal and sustainable forest products.

- **Principle**
  - Based on national sovereignty
  - Led by domestic governments
  - Focus on sustainable forest management
  - Promote normal international trade
  - Guarantee community participation and benefits
  - Strengthen international cooperation
China’s Efforts in Advancing the Production and Trade of Legal Timber International

2 Active Actions

- Established the Asian-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
- Published two Guides
  - In 2007, *A Guide on Sustainable Overseas Silviculture by Chinese Enterprises*
- Strengthen cooperation with NGOs
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3. Broad International Cooperation

- Bilateral Cooperation
  - Signed MOU
    - EU (2009)
  - Negotiating MoUs
    - Australia, Japan.
  - SFM Cooperation
    - Russia, UK, Germany, Finland, Myanmar, Malaysia, etc.
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EU – China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism on FLEG

- Develop a shared approach towards legality verification schemes for timber and timber products
- Exchange information
  - private and public procurement policies for forest products,
  - forest certification schemes,
  - forest governance in the context of international processes
- Relevant co-ordinate training
- Facilitate business to business contacts between EU and Chinese to increasing information on the supply chains of timber products
- Identify policy and technical research priorities and co-ordinate relevant bilateral activities.
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3. Broad International Cooperation

- Multilateral Activities
  - Actively participate in international and regional events
    UNFF, FLEG, CBFP, Chatham House’s meeting, etc.
  - Actively organize events
    China-EU FLEG international conference in 2007,
    China-Russia Forest Policy consultation and training meeting in 2008,
    Timber and Timber Products Trade Policy International Workshop in 2008
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

1. Background
2. Program
3. Understanding
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Background

- China-UK Sustainable Development Dialogue: annual
  - Based on Inter-governmental Joint Announcement in 2005, chaired by China NDRC & UK Defra
  - Forestry as one of the first-tranche priorities

- China-UK Forestry Working Group
  - Based on MoU between SFA and UK FC in 2002
  - Current activities: SFM, FLR, Forest Certification, IL, etc.

Objective

- to help 2 staff from SFA to develop the knowledge of forest governance and trade, in particular illegal logging, covering both policy and policy development and a range of practical implementation mechanisms.
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Program

Program 1
July, 2008: Proforest 5-day Training Course
forest certification, responsible purchasing of forest products, forest governance and illegal logging, forest and climate change

Program 2
Sep. –Nov. 2008 (11 weeks)
meetings, conferences & study tours
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Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Program

- Government policies & practices
  - EC DGENV + DGDEV: FLEGT VPA + due diligence, green procurement policies
  - UK DFID, Defra, EAC: international cooperation policies, govt. operation, FLEGT, UK PPP
  - UK FC, UKWAS, Tay forest district: SFM, FC, state forests management
  - Finland MMM, MTK: Laws, SFM (UPM forests), FLEGT
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Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Program

Industries responses
- Companies: wood tracing systems (Finland - Russian wood), certification, purchasing policies nonfeasance
  - Finland: Stora Enso, UPM-Kymmene, Metsaliitto (giants)
  - UK: Finnforest, Wolseley, SCA, James Latham (not yet), small retailer
- Sector associations: services, operation, relationship; RPP, code of conduct
  - Finland: FFIF, MTK, FMAs; UK: TTF, CONFOR
- Financial institutions: assistant policy
  - HSBC: Equator principles, forest policy
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Program

- NGOs & Independent Organizations initiatives
  roles & functions, projects/products, understandings & solutions, comments on govt./companies actions
  - NGOs: WWF GFTN, IUCN, TFT, TTAP, Global Witness, Greenpeace
  - Independent: SGS verification; consulting companies like Proforest, Track Record; EFI, Chatham House

- Conferences: experiences and lessons
  - FLEGT: From Theory to Practice
  - International Timber Trade Federation Day
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Understanding

Knowledge

★ Understood the ideaes and measures of combating illegal logging in the EU.
★ SFM of state and private owner
★ Experience of forest industry — Multi-National operation
★ Development of forest certification
★ Good forestry consultation system
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation
Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Understanding

- Inspiration
- Forest products supply chain
- Strengthen China-EU cooperation for the timber legality verification
- Advance the Chinese forest certification rapidly
- Enhance forest association building
- Research the Chinese forestry planning reform
- Research the Chinese public timber procurement policy
- Concern the SFM of the central Africa tropical forest
Understanding of China-EU Cooperation

Experiences of Working and Training in the UK in 2008

Understanding

Outcome

★ Promote understanding and facilitate to sign <EU – China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism on FLEG>

★ Get inspiration from training to organize the Timber and Timber Products Trade Policy International Workshop in Dec. 2008
Thinking of combating illegal logging

- Strengthen FLEG

- FLEG is the foundation and key measure of combating illegal logging
- All governments of forest country should responsible for and right to manage and use their forest. The developed countries should aid the developing countries for FLEG
- Share the Chinese experience of FLEG with other countries
Thinking of combating illegal logging

Timber Legality Verification

- **Background**

  **Current initiatives:** complicated, expensive, lack of unified standard, confusing definition of legal and sustainable, insufficient government action

  **Conclusion:** difficult to implement in developing countries, need to explore a new simple and low cost scheme which led by government.
Thinking of combating illegal logging

Timber Legality Verification

- **Main ideas**
  - Definition of illegal logging and legal timber
  - Solve the legality issue first. Distinguish between timber legality and sustainability
  - The government of producer countries should perform a main function for timber legality verification
  - The government of consumer (importation) countries use the trade measures to coordinate with the producing countries
  - Explore a timber legality verification scheme based on FLEG (from bilateral to multilateral) similar to CITES
Thinking of combating illegal logging

Timber Legality Verification

How to verify the legal timber proposal

Commitment by government

Verification: legal timber certificate issued by the government of producer countries or authorized agency based on the various tools accepted by the government, such as harvesting license system, forest certification (FSC/PEFC/SFI...), FLEGT-VPA, GFTN...

For example

The Chinese government can issue a legal timber certificate to the Chinese original forest products based on the Chinese forest harvesting and transport license.

The US government can issue a legal timber certificate to the US original forest products based on the US certain scheme.

Other countries, like Malaysia: if Malaysian government announces that MTC can be used as a legality certificate for exported timber, then China or US-Malaysia timber legality verification scheme will also accept the MTC certificate as a timber legality certificate for timber imported to China or US from Malaysia.
Thinking of combating illegal logging

Timber Legality Verification

Benefits of the above scheme

For producer countries
- Control all exported timber products
- Ensure payment from exported timber products

For consumer countries
- Ensure that imported timber products are legal

For international community
- Accepts the efforts of various schemes, and provides the development opportunity for them
Thank you

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