Imported Wood: An Established Chain of Legality

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Who We Are?

- Small, family businesses
  - Diverse products from 30+ countries
  - Generations, relationships
- 220 member companies
- Ports, shipping companies, forest certification, chain-of-custody providers (WWF, Rainforest Alliance)
Why we care?

- Family Business = Long-term = Sustainability
  - Ethics, Legality
- IWPA Actions
  - Wood Purchasing Policies 1992
  - Code of Conduct 1994
  - Statement on Certification 2000
  - Statement on Illegal Logging 2002, 1993
  - Helped create TFF in 1990
  - Organized U.S. State Department-funded Forest Governance Workshop in Panama
    - Public-private partnerships
Support Rule of Law
Illegal Logging Definitions

- AF&PA – “Theft of timber or logs, cutting in parks, reserves or similar areas, and cutting where government approvals are obtained by corrupt practices.”

- WWF – “Harvesting or trading of in violation of relevant national or subnational laws, or access to forest resources or trade in forest products that is authorized through corrupt practices.”

- PIAIL – “Timber that is harvested, transported, processed or sold in contravention of a country’s laws.”
Support Government Actions

- US PIAIL
- US MOU w/ Indonesia
- ITTO initiatives
- CITES
- Country certification schemes

New laws are not the answer as illegal actors already not following the laws. Enforce existing and get more information so efforts can be focused on solutions.
Support Voluntary Initiatives

- Due Dilligence
- Legality verification
  - SGS and others
- Forest certification
- Global Forest and Trade Network
- Tropical Forest Foundation – RIL
- Host of others, domestic and international… all are steps forward.

Maximize “tools in toolkit”
Continuous Improvement

- Government capacity building
  - Transfer of funding and technical expertise for law enforcement
- Enhance developing country assns.
- Foster respect for rule of law
- Public-private partnerships