

Recent U.S. Government Efforts to Strengthen Forest Governance & Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

4th Potomac Forum
May 4, 2011



USAID
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Forests and Forestry: U.S. Foreign Policy Interests

- Economic development, trade, income & jobs
- Livelihoods and cultures of indigenous and forest dependent communities
- Ecosystem services: Water, carbon, climate adaptation, soils, etc.
- Biodiversity: Most of it (terrestrial) lies within the remaining natural tropical forests.

The U.S. Approach

- Value and take account of **multiple goods and services** of forest ecosystems;
- Address **underlying causes** of deforestation (e.g. tenure, corruption, perverse incentives);
- Support **participatory approaches**;
- Base policy on the best available **science**;
- Strengthen transparency and accountability in the international **trade in forest products**.

The Lacey Act Amendment After Two Years: What Has Changed?

- Markets increasingly demand – and reward – transparency and legality;
- Growing recognition that legality is a shared responsibility of “consumer”, “processor” and “producer” countries;
- New legality measures (e.g. EU, Australia, Japan, Indonesia, China)

The Lacey Act Amendment After Two Years: What Has Changed?

- Growing expertise, outreach and capacity building by NGOs and the private sector;
- Intensive U.S. government involvement in international outreach and awareness-raising activities (especially in Asia);
- Growing attention to illegal logging and forest governance in bilateral and regional trade agreements and negotiations (e.g. Peru, TPP, APEC)

Beyond Combating Illegal Logging: Focus on Forest Governance

- REDD+ discussions have highlighted FLEG as a key part of “REDD Readiness”;
- Decentralization efforts have catalyzed new thinking on forest governance;
- Tenure issues receiving more attention;
- Forest governance issues are front-line democracy and participation issues;
- Lessons learned for efforts to contain forest conversion and fragmentation?

Wood science combating illegal logging

- Compliance and enforcement of policy – Lacey Act and CITES
- Forensic support
 - Identification of timbers
 - Botanical identification
 - Origin
 - Expert witnesses for prosecutions
- Developing new methods
- Informing policy and promoting trade of legally harvested wood products





Wood Forensics – Recent USFS Initiatives

USFS Forest Products Laboratory

USFS International Programs

- Classical laboratory analysis – microscopy
- Field identification manuals
- Training field personnel
- Machine vision wood ID device
- STEALTH - Science, Technology, and Education Assuring Legal Timber Harvest
- Wood anatomy of molecular techniques
- Outreach



Classical laboratory analysis - microscopy

- Depends on highly specialized scientific expertise and access to xylarium
- USFS FPL is world-famous for this

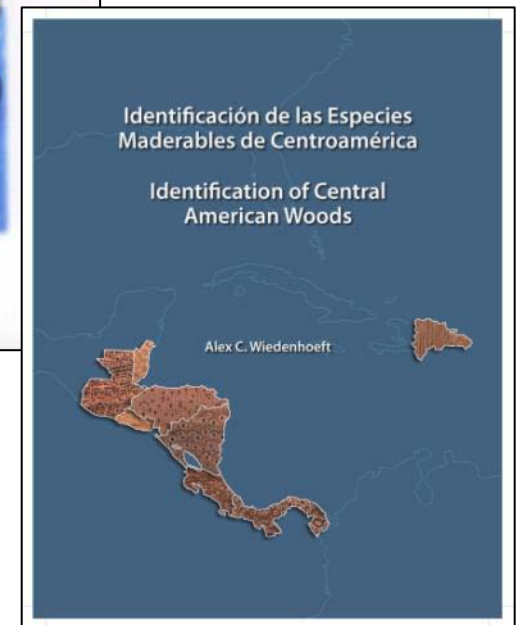
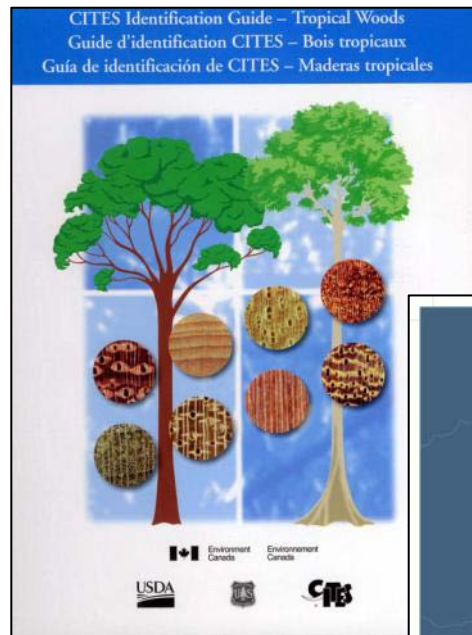


- Traditional analysis of seized material
 - CITES violations
 - Lacey violations

Field Identification Manuals

Alex C. Wiedenhoft, Research Botanist

- CITES Tropical Timber Manual
 - 2002: English, French, Spanish
 - 2004: Polish
 - 2005: Chinese
- Identificación de las especies maderables de Centroamérica
 - In press: Spanish, English



Training field personnel

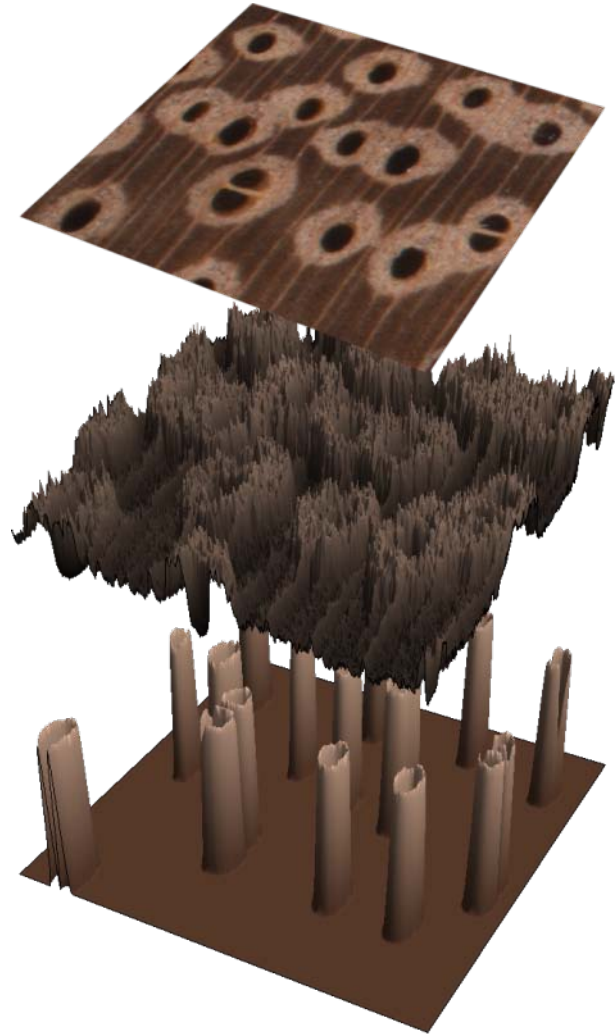
- Domestic training:
 - 2002, 2004, 2007: Basic hand lens identification to introductory laboratory identification
- International training: “Train the trainers”
 - 2007: Basic hand lens identification
 - Nicaragua, Singapore, Honduras
 - 2008: Basic hand lens identification
 - Nicaragua



Machine vision wood ID device

Alex C. Wiedenhoft, Research Botanist
John C. Hermanson, Research Scientist

- Field manuals and training inefficient
- Research into more efficient identification is necessary
- Use computers and sensors to develop portable, handheld identification device



STEALTH

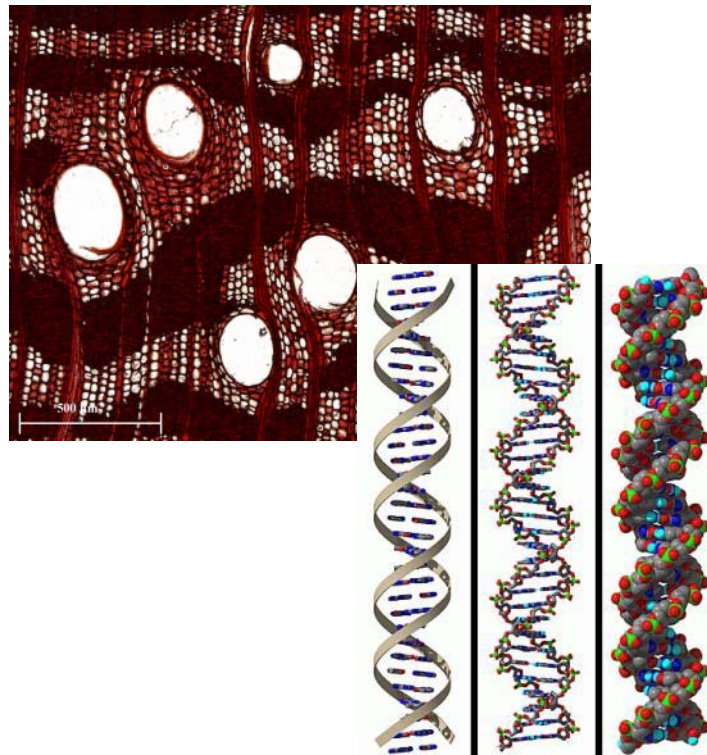
Science, Technology, and Education Assuring Legal Timber Harvest

- International clearing-house for wood science talent
- Mostly scientists and academics
- International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA) Journal: 2011 Issue 2
- <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/stealth/>

Wood anatomy of molecular techniques

Alex C. Wiedenhoft, Research Botanist
Brook Milligan, NM State University

- Extracting DNA of sufficient quality and quantity from wood products is technology-limited
- DNA in wood is predictably located in certain cells
- Pre-processing specimens can maximize extraction efficiency



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Technology Outreach

- Workshops Planned in cooperation with USAID, FLA, TNC RAFT, TRAFFIC, and WWF
 - Malaysia: *Technology that Promotes Transparent Timber Trade in Asia and the Pacific Region*
 - Republic of Congo: *Technologies and Systems to Improve Transparency in the Central African Forest Sector*



Forest Governance, Conservation & Livelihoods

- Long history with forests and trees
 - Evolved from rural development programs
 - Concern with biodiversity , forest loss, rights of local people
 - environmental safeguards



- **Promote an Integrated approach:** best practices in monitoring and management; improved policies, including property rights-- local and national levels; participation of all stakeholders; market linkages/ financial viability; multiple use, valuation and ecosystem services.
- **Utilize a variety of implementation partners and models**

Forest Programs

- **Bilateral Country Programs:** USAID in 100 countries:
Forest programs (approx. 40)
- **Regional/Sub Regional-** programs: Congo Basin, SE Asia (RAFT), Amazon, West Africa (Steward)
- **Global Programs:** Forest Legality Alliance; Trans-links, Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance; TFCA
- **Policy work:**
Interagency (Lacey Act, USTR MOUs, USDA)
Multilateral (ITTO, UNFF, FAO);



Lacey Act Outreach & Timber Legality Capacity Building

- Forest Legality Alliance (FLA)
- Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT)
- Bilateral/Country programs
- Cooperation with USFS, State, USTR and DoC