The Timber Investigation Centre
And its relevance to EUTR Competent Authorities
Who is Earthsight?

- **MISSION**: promote the use of in-depth investigations to expose environmental and social crime, injustice and the links to global consumption
- Founded in 2007, expanded into fully-fledged non-profit organisation 2016
- Main area of expertise: illegal logging and related trade
- Also illegal e-waste; ivory poaching/smuggling; slave labour/clothing
- In the past, have generally operated ‘behind the scenes’
- Helped research illegal timber cases for EIA, Greenpeace, Global Witness, WWF
- Based in London; 4 full-time staff, global network of part-time consultants

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Background on Malaysia

Languages: All content (except 'news') available in English, French, Spanish and Indonesian
In 2017, Guidebook will also be available in Portuguese, Russian and Burmese

Guidebook: How to collect evidence, analyse information, write it up and submit it
Available as illustrated PDF and also directly readable in PC and mobile-friendly formats on website

Assistance: Offer of 'pro-bono' help to activists, NGOs, communities in investigating cases and submitting information
Limited funds: dependent on applicants having a large part of the picture already

News: Selected updates about major cases, legislation, technology etc. Can be accessed via a Mailing List

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Guidebook:

- **Audience**: Main target audience is civil society, **BUT** also contains information of value to authorities (inc EUTR CAs)
- **Focus**: Principal focus is on making cases which connect to EU or US, but most advice applies more broadly
- **Content**:
  - Overview of EUTR/Lacey, how info from CSOs can support them
  - Different types of illegalities and how they can be documented
  - How to compare different datasets
  - How to trace illegally-sourced wood through supply chains
  - Available technologies (e.g. drones, isotopes, GPS trackers)
  - How to package information for best effect
  - Different ways the information can be used

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Content Examples

• Understanding and interpreting log markings

• Finding hidden or hard-to-find info on the internet

• Comparing logging license maps with satellite images

• Planning & carrying out fieldwork, and recording findings

• Accessing and analysing shipment records (e.g. PIERS)

• Content to include in report to authorities

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Assistance

1. Discrete pieces of assistance with specific elements (circa 10 in year 1)

2. In-depth joint investigative work (1 per year)

EG:
- Strategic advice
- Help with accessing/processing trade data
- Help access/process shipment records
- Satellite image sourcing and analysis
- Making connections with US/EU enforcement

- Building on existing evidence
- Assistance with multiple elements
- Joint ‘partnership’
- Including joint field work

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Dissemination:
• Substantial effort made to reach as many relevant individuals and organisations as possible
• Try to reach beyond ‘usual suspects’
• Extensive outreach, with dedicated co-ordinators for Latam and Francophone Africa
• Spreading word, encouraging and assisting with applications

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Users in nearly every major tropical producer country of illegal wood

Users in most EU MS importing significant amounts of high-risk wood

Users spending substantial amounts of time on the site
Applications

- 15 applications to-date, inc from:
  - SE Asia: Indonesia
  - Africa: Congo, Cameroon, DRC, CAR, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia
  - Latam: Brazil, Honduras
- Less existing case evidence on which to build than hoped or expected
- Lots of broad, generic requests for assistance and training
- Many groups need funding as much as technical assistance
- Though wasn’t initially planned, are providing micro-grant assistance along with technical advice
- Nothing yet ready to hand over to authorities

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Parallel Research & Activities
• TIC research is ‘client led’
• Also conducting own research, looking for possible new cases EUTR/Lacey
• Global scope, cast net very wide and gradually focusing down
• Looking for ‘low-hanging fruit’, less-well documented countries/products
• Different approach to that of other orgs (e.g. EIA, GP, GW) – flexible, follow evidence
• Working both:
  • from source (e.g. IL case in source ctry) and
  • from destination (e.g. high-risk product on sale in dest ctry)
• Network with relevant enforcement agencies in EU/US

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Lesson of interest to EUTR CAs: Shipment records

- Databases of individual shipments, based on bills of lading / ship manifests
- Give identities of supplier and buyer, product description, etc.
- Subscription-based, numerous commercial suppliers
- PIERS – US imports – critical tool in all Lacey cases pursued to-date
  - **No equivalent for imports into EU** – potential major problem
- Alternative methods for making supply chain connections are very resource intensive
- **Partial solution**: newly available databases for source country exports
# Timber Investigation Centre

**Shipper & Consignee**
- Russia
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Ukraine
- Colombia
- Bolivia
- Mexico
- Ecuador
- Vietnam
- Paraguay

**Shipper only**
- Peru
- Philippines
- Argentina
- Chile
- Uruguay
- Panama

**Shipper consolidated**
- China

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How can we help with EUTR implementation / enforcement?

**Cases**: Bring actionable evidence to CAs, in useable form

**BUT ALSO** (and perhaps more importantly):
- Provide starting points on which CAs can build
- Help influence enforcement priorities (e.g. companies, source countries, products)
- Demonstrate foreknowledge
- Encourage voluntary improvements in compliance by private sector
How can we help with EUTR implementation / enforcement?

**TWO-WAY STREET**

- Authorities can come to us for assistance
- Our model more conducive to this than that of others (EIA, GP, GW)

**EXAMPLES**

- Helping intermediate with NGOs in source countries providing evidence
- Providing access to shipment record databases
- Providing advice in interpreting evidence obtained/submitted
- Help in obtaining information from source countries
Let’s aim to beat this rather old record!
Thank-you / Merci / Etc

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