



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM3/SCE/018

Agenda Item: 3.2

Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Terms of Reference 2022 - 2025

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: EGILAT Chair



**Third SOM Steering Committee on
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Meeting
27 August 2021**

APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)

Terms of Reference (2022-2025)

1. Context

Forests and forest resources provide critical economic, social, and environmental benefits for APEC economies and the world as a whole. Based on FAO data, in 2020 APEC economies accounted for approximately 54.5% of the world's forests¹. APEC economies contributed 43% of global forest products and 41% of the global trade in forest products valued at over \$344 billion in 2019².

Illegal logging and associated trade is a significant problem facing the Asia-Pacific region with adverse economic, environmental, and social impacts. APEC Leaders agreed in Yokohama in 2010 to enhance cooperation to address concerns with illegal logging and associated trade and to promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation. In 2011, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade directed officials to establish an experts' group to promote trade in legally harvested forest products, combat illegal logging and associated trade, and build capacity of member economies.

2. Goal

The goal of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) is to enhance the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote trade in legally harvested forest products, and support capacity building activities in member economies.

By taking concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products EGILAT will contribute to APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 particularly "to deliver, a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment" (Trade and Investment) and "to promote economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, for a sustainable planet" (Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth) and shared prosperity.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities

The EGILAT will:

(a) serve as a platform for member economies to strengthen policy dialogue on combating³ illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products;

¹ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

² <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GF>

³ For purposes of this document, the term "combat" may also include strategies and activities to prevent illegal logging and associated trade, where those strategies and activities: directly support combating illegal logging and associated trade; are agreed-upon by EGILAT members; and do not duplicate activities, objectives, goals and mandates of other organisations.

(b) consider and share information, where available, on policies that combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvested forest products, and exchange views on how to learn from successful policies;

(c) provide member economies with opportunities to exchange information, views, experiences, and analyses on relevant matters, including on (i) developments in laws, regulations, and other measures relating to combating illegal logging and associated trade, (ii) new technologies, including transparent information systems, designed to assist efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvested forest products, (iii) data and other information on production, processing, exports, imports, and consumption of forest products, to the extent available, and (iv) actions taken by indigenous and local communities to combat illegal logging and facilitate the trade in legal forest products;

(d) assist member economies in identifying capacity building needs, developing targeted capacity-building assistance, including among indigenous and local communities, and identifying linkages to project financing (including through a digitally-enabled financing ecosystem), including to facilitate post-pandemic recovery;

(e) facilitate law enforcement and other agreed-upon cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, consistent with domestic law and in accordance with applicable international agreements (e.g., by creating sub-groups, exchanging enforcement personnel, holding joint law enforcement meetings and exercises, and participating in and/or establishing law enforcement networks);

(f) recognizing APEC's commitment and activities relating to sustainable forest management and landscape restoration, as well as work on these topics in other organizations, collaborate with those organizations and support economies to engage with those organizations as agreed by EGILAT members, and endeavor to ensure that these activities complement and do not duplicate activities⁴ being carried out in those organizations; and

(g) collaborate with industry, civil society, as well as indigenous and local communities to raise awareness and contribute to domestic and regional efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvested forest products.

4. Structure and Administration

(a) EGILAT will be guided by Leaders' and Ministers' directives and the objectives set out in section 3 above.

(b) EGILAT will be composed of officials of member economies responsible for trade, forestry, and other matters relevant to the group's work.

⁴ Issues relating to sustainable forest management that demonstrate a direct and tangible contribution to combatting illegal logging and associated trade, may form part of EGILAT's workplan and activities where agreed by EGILAT members and where those activities do not duplicate activities, objectives, goals and mandates of other organisations.

(c) A Chair will be selected and undertake duties in accordance with the *Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Taskforces*.

(d) The EGILAT will meet twice a year unless it decides otherwise. Meetings will be arranged so as to minimize costs and maximize member participation. The group will conduct inter-sessional work through electronic means.

(e) The EGILAT may invite non-members, including representatives of non-member economies, international and regional forestry organizations, civil society, and the private sector to participate in its work in accordance with the *APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members*.

5. Review and Reporting Requirements

(a) The EGILAT will periodically review its activities and operations. In addition, EGILAT will be assessed every four years by the SCE.

(b) The EGILAT will report annually through the SCE Fora Report or as requested by SOM.

6. Sunset clause and quorum:

(a) The EGILAT has a current term of four years from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025. At the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of EGILAT and its ToR shall be reviewed by EGILAT and SCE, and a recommendation on renewal shall be put to Senior Officials for approval. The EGILAT must be explicitly renewed by Senior Officials in order to continue, after the expiration of this Term of reference.

(b) Quorum for EGILAT's Meetings constitutes attendees from at least 14 economies. Should the EGILAT fail to meet quorum for one meeting, the EGILAT must notify the SCE chair. Should the EGILAT fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it shall be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist. Decisions can be made at EGILAT meetings if quorum and consensus are reached. If the quorum is not reached at a meeting, the meeting may continue, but any matters for decision must be put to the full membership for consideration.