HOW TO IDENTIFY FOREST CRIME

AFRICA
FROM THE FORESTS TO THE STORES

It is important to track timber along the entire timber supply chain and to ensure compliance with the laws at each stage.

STAGE 1
HARVEST
- Concession area
- Protected area

STAGE 2
TRANSPORTATION TO SAWMILLS
- Via roads on trucks (obvious and visible cargo)
- Via waterways by boats (obvious and visible cargo)
- Via waterways by floating timber

STAGE 3
PROCESSING
- Sawmills
- Pulp mills (e.g. wood chips)
- Paper mills
TRANSPORTATION TO STORES

- Via national and international road networks on trucks (packed cargo)
- Via national and international waterways by boats (packed cargo)

CONSUMPTION

- National markets
- International markets
ILLEGAL HARVESTING

An example of an invalid logging permit.

IDENTIFY ILLEGAL HARVESTING

- No logging permit
- Invalid logging permit (expired or fake permit)
- Invalid permit for harvest, species and types of transportation
- Harvest in unauthorized sites
Harvesting is illegal behind signs of national parks.
A log of Rosewood, a CITES-listed endangered species in Madagascar.

Logs of Afrormosia, a CITES-listed endangered species in Congo.

**IDENTIFY ILLEGAL HARVESTING**

- Cutting of high-value endangered species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Invalid documents (including the CITES permit)
- Illegal logs of protected species mixed in supply for pulp industry
Logs of Afrormosia, a CITES-listed endangered species in Congo.
Forests are also cleared to make room for cash crops and to establish and expand palm oil plantations.
An agricultural area close to the border of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda.

**DETECT ILLEGAL LOGGING**

- Forests cleared for cash crops with invalid permits
- Forests in national parks or illegal concession areas cleared for agriculture
CHARCOAL PRODUCTION

Monitoring charcoal production and trade is particularly important in Africa. Charcoal production may be carried out illegally, and income from this trade may be used to support criminal activities across Africa.

Trucks loaded with charcoal in Uganda.

Charcoal ready to be transported in Uganda.
DETECT
ILLEGAL LOGGING

• Charcoal kilns in national parks
TRANSPORTATION TO SAWMILLS

- Transportation of logs by trucks.
- Transportation of logs by waterways.

DETECT
ILLEGAL LOGS ON TRANSPORT ROUTES

- No permit for transportation
- Reusing the same permit
- Passing checkpoints without permit
PROCESSING
Sawmills may have illegally logged protected species in storage.

A worker cuts illegally logged timber at a sawmill.

IDENTIFY
ILLEGAL LOGS

- Oversized timber in sawmills or other processing spots
- Timber of protected species (probably high-density timber) in sawmills or other processing spots
- Overstock accumulated in sawmills or other processing spots
- Failure to make a dent with a sharp object into a piece of timber. If it is high density timber, it is possibly old growth rainforest timber
TRANSPORTATION TO STORES

Planks transported by trucks.

Floating timber by the Libreville harbor in Gabon.

DETECT ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION

- Underreported transportation of timber by vessels down rivers and/or by trucks on roads
- Smuggling with false permits
WILDLIFE POACHING

Logger camps rely on “bushmeat” from endangered species such as gorillas and great apes. In addition, loggers may also engage in ivory and rhino horn trade.

Apes heads and hands for sale.

Apes are critically endangered due to loss of habitat and poaching for bushmeat.
Illegal ivory seized by Kenyan officials at the Port of Mombasa.

**DETECT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE POACHING**

- Poaching endangered species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Illegal ivory trade
1. Secure the outer crime scene from contamination by you, your colleagues or other bystanders. Park any vehicle at least 100 m away. Do not move anything.

2. Take photographs.

3. Prepare a sketch of the crime scene showing the precise location and relationship between objects and evidence.

4. Record any footprints, footwear or incriminating signs revealing what happened OR that link suspects to the crime scene.

5. Collect or seize any item you consider relevant to the crime scene, preferably using a pencil, glove or stick. Place items in separate bags or folded sheets of paper.

6. Prepare a short report or write down keywords while at the site including anything of relevance that can be counted, e.g. tracks, seized items (weapons, ammo, cutting items, wildlife parts, bags of coal or logs), and people present – along with the date, time, estimated time passed since the criminal action, time you spent at crime scene, location description and/or coordinates. Ensure that the information collected is sufficient for locating the site at a later time.
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ISBN: 978-82-7701-127-1