HOW TO IDENTIFY FOREST CRIME
LATIN AMERICA
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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)

STAGE 4

CONSUMPTION

- National markets
- International markets

STAGE 5
Brazil’s federal environmental agency, known as IBAMA, and the Para State Police inspect logs discovered during “Operation Labareda”, a raid against illegal logging near Novo Progresso in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest.

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
• Cutting high-value endangered species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
• Illegal logs of protected species mixed in supply for pulp industry
• Invalid documents (including the CITES permit)

Logs of Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), a CITES-listed endangered species, at a sawmill in Guatemala.
MINING REPLACING FORESTS

An illegal wildcat gold mine near Castelo dos Sonhos in Brazil.

A man works at an illegal wildcat gold mine in a deforested area of Amazon rainforest near the city of Morais Almeida in Brazil.

IDENTIFY ILLEGAL LOGGING

- Forest cleared for illegal mining (also called wildcat mining)
- Mining in national parks
Extensive cattle ranching is a major driver of deforestation in the Amazon.

Rainforest clearance for agriculture purposes in Mato Grosso in Brazil.

IDENTIFY ILLEGAL LOGGING

- Forests cleared for cash crops or cattle without a permit or with an invalid permit
- Forests in national parks or illegal concession areas cleared for cash crops or cattle
Discards from illegally extracted wood are used to make charcoal in the Alto Guama River indigenous reserve in Nova Esperanca do Piria, Brazil.

DETECT ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION

- Charcoal kilns in national parks
- Firewood collected in protected forest
TRANSPORTATION TO SAWMILLS

Tractor loading truck with logs from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

DETECT ILLEGAL LOGS ON TRANSPORT ROUTES

- No permit for transportation
- Reusing the same permit
- Passing checkpoints without permit
Logs from the Amazon rainforest transported by boat in Peru.
A sawmill that processes logs from the Amazon rainforest in Tailandia, 180 kms south of Belem at the mouth of the Amazon River.
Para state policemen and a government environmental inspector examine logs cut from the Amazon rainforest at the Catarinense sawmill in Tailandia.

**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 accumulation in stocks 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 loaded onto a truck in Brazil.

DETECT ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION

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

Endangered species of animals, birds and plants are collected and poached from the rainforest to sell abroad as pets, food, and medicine.

Blue and gold macaws are endangered due to capture as pets and loss of habitat.
Young caimans captured in the Amazon for illegal trade.

**DETECT**

**ILLEGAL WILDLIFE POACHING**

- Hunting endangered species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Hunting animals protected by national laws
- Illegal trade of animals
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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GRID-Arendal
P.O. Box 183 +47 4764 4555
N-4802 Arendal grid@grida.no
Norway www.grida.no

INTERPOL General Secretariat
Environmental Security Sub-Directorate
200 quai Charles de Gaulle
69006 Lyon, France
environmentalcrime@interpol.int