# TIMBER LEGALITY IN CHINA - PRACTICES & PERSPECTIVES

#### Jeff Cao

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## About me

#### Major Industry Experience

- 2016-Present: Director, Quality Assurance-APAC, Lumber Liquidators (LL)
- 2013-2015: Asia Forestry Hub Manager, Bureau Veritas Certification (BV)
- 2008–2013: Associate Regional Manager, East Asia, The Rainforest Alliance (RA)

#### **Professional Qualifications**

- •Forest Management Certification Lead Auditor / Technical Reviewer / Decision Maker (BV)
- •Chain of Custody Certification Lead Auditor / Technical Reviewer / Decision maker (BV)
- •Timber Legality Verification Lead Auditor / Technical Reviewer / Decision maker (BV)
- Quality Management System (LL)
- Product Certification, Testing and Inspection (LL)

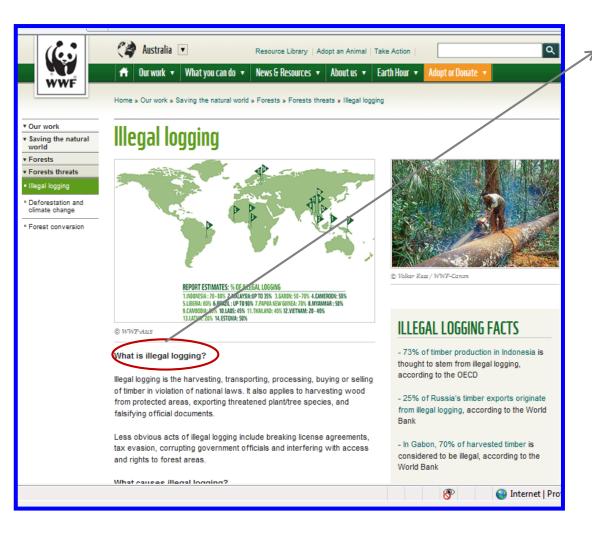
#### **Education Background**

- Ph.D., 2011, University of Washington (USA)
- M.Sc. 2004. Oregon State University (USA)
- M. Sc. 2001. Nanjing Forestry University (China)
- B. Sc. 1999. Nanjing Forestry University (China)

## Content

- Brief overview of timber legality in the context of China
- Structured approach to address timber legality DDS
- Future perspectives

# **Defining Illegal Timber**



Harvesting, transporting, processing, buying or selling of timber in violation of national laws. It also applies to harvesting wood from protected areas, exporting threatened plant/tree species, and falsifying official documents. Less obvious acts of illegal logging include breaking license agreements, tax evasion, corrupting government officials and interfering with access and rights to forest areas

非法木材指的是在采伐,运输,生产,买卖木材等环节违反国家法律规定的行为。包括采伐自然保护区的木材,出口濒危植物,篡改合法证明文件;还包括违反合法证明文件采伐林木偷税漏税,政府腐败和干扰所在区域的林木使用权和居民合法权益的行为。

## Chinese Forest Laws System

More than 60 laws, regulations, and standards developed during the past 30 years for forest management, biodiversity, land use, harvest, timber trade...

在过去的30年中,针对森林管理、生物多样性、土地利用以及木材贸易等,制定了超过 60个的法律,法规。



宪法:全国人大制定、基本法

法律:全国人大制定、行业性

法规、条例:国务院颁布、行业性

政府规章:中央政府主管部门、行业性

地方性行政规定:地方人大、政府

实际执行办法:地方林业管理部门

## Where timber legality DDS is most concerned?

Harvesting 采伐环节





- ❖ Logging without authorization 擅自采伐
- ❖ Illegal logging 违规采伐
- ❖ Illegal reforestation违规更新林木
- ❖ Others 其他行为

Transportatior 运输环节





- ❖ Transportation without authorization 擅自运输
- ❖ Illegal transportation 违规运输

Processing 加工环节





- ❖ Illegal purchase 非法收购
- ❖ Illegal processing 非法加工

Trading 贸易环节





- ❖ Exporting/importing wood without authorization 擅自出口/进口木材
- ❖ Illegal exporting/importing wood 违规出口/进口木材
- ❖ Others 其他行为

Administrative Management 行政管理





- ❖ Illegal administrative act 行政行为违法
- ❖ Taxes 相关税费

#### (1) Logging without authorisation 擅自采伐(未获得采伐许可)

- □ Logging of protected species 采伐受保护的树种
- □ Logging in protected areas 采伐保护区域内的林木
- □ Logging in prohibited areas such as steep slopes, riverbanks and water catchments 采伐禁止采伐区域(陡峭的山坡,河岸和集水区等)

的林木





#### 

- □ Incorrect logging ways 错误的选择采伐方式
- □ Logging in excess of area division 采伐超出区域范围(与本地林木所有者签订合约采伐他 们的林木,但是却采伐了相连公共区域的林木)
- Extracting more timber than authorized 超出采伐数量采伐林木
- □ Incorrect wood species 未按规定树种采伐

#### (3) Illegal reforestation 违规更新林木

- No reforestation after logging 采伐木材后未进行更新
- New species with bio-security risks (poor planting species, low-density planting)
  更新林木的树种存在安全隐患(种植品种差,低密度种植)
- □ Insufficient quantity of newly planted timber 未达到更新的木材量

## (4)Others 其他行为

- □ Transplanting large trees 移栽大树
- □ Digging tree seedlings, tree roots 挖树苗、树根
- ☐ Saftey, PPEs

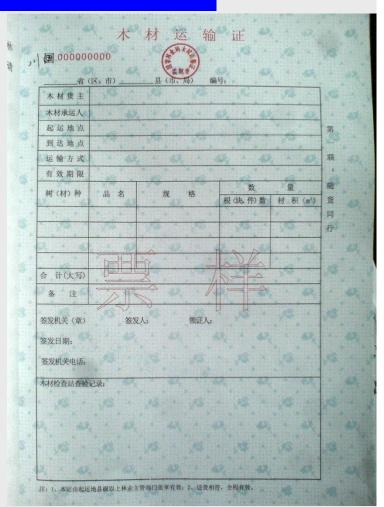


#### Transportation 运输环节

#### (1) Transportation without authorization 擅自运输木材

- Without timber transportation permits 未取得木材运输许可运输木材
- □ Knowingly transport illegal timber 承运人(明知情况下)违法运输木材
- Accept fake timber transportation documents (using a forged, altered transport documents)

接受篡改的木材运输文件(使用伪造、涂改的运输证明文件)



### Transportation 运输环节

## (2) Illegal transportation 违规运输木材

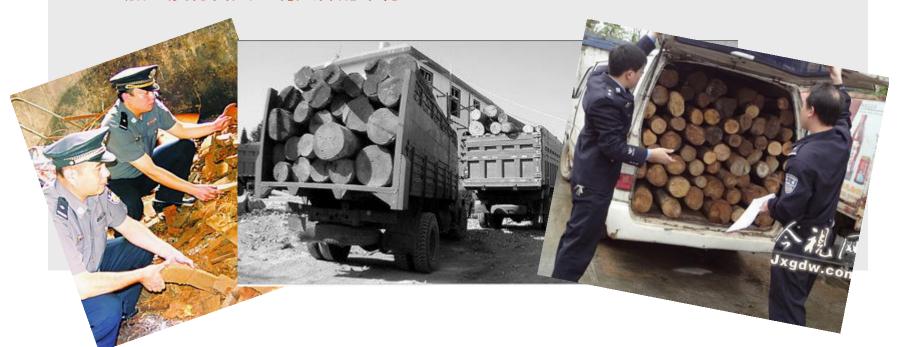
- □ Not matching with timber transportation documents, such as species, quantity, etc.不按照木材运输文件规定运输木材(树种、数量等)
- Over-loading



## Processing 加工环节

#### (1) Illegal purchase 非法收购木材行为

- □ Purchase timber from organizations or individuals without harvest permits 收购来自未获得采伐许可的木材(来源于企业或个人)
- □ Processing timber without legal documents 加工没有合法证明文件的木材



#### Processing 加工环节

## (2) Illegal processing 非法加工木材行为

- □ processing without permission or authorization 未经许可或授权生产木材
- □ Have not meet the permit conditions , including pollution control standards

未达到许可条件生产木材(包括污染控制标准等)



#### Trading 贸易环节

#### (1) Exporting/importing wood without authorization 擅自出口/进口木材行为

- Exporting and importing tree species banned under international law, such as **CITES Appendix 1** 出口/进口国际法律法规所禁止的树种 (国家濒危物种公约附录1);
- Exporting/importing wood without authorization, such as CITES Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 未经允许擅自出口/进口木材 (国家公约附录2和附录3里面的树种);
- Exporting and importing logs, sawn timber and other forest products violated national ban

违背国家禁令擅自出口/进口原木、锯材和其他 林产品。

濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

附录Ⅰ、附录Ⅱ和附录Ⅲ

Appendices I, II and III

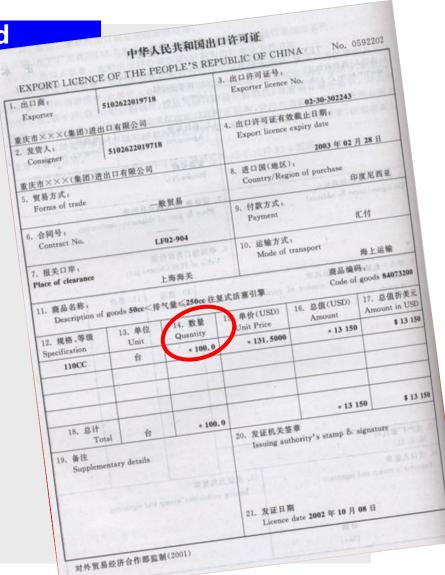


2013年9月

## Trading 贸易环节

# (2) Illegal exporting/importing wood 违规出口/进口木材行为

- Exporting more forest products than allowed on the export license 超出出口许可证上的数量出口大量林产品
- □ Illegal use of timber import and export documents (altered or forged) 违规使用进出口木材证明文件(涂改、伪造)。



## Administrative Management 行政管理

#### (1) Illegal administrative act 行政行为违法

- □ Obtaining logging concessions through illegal ways , such as bribes 获得采伐权的途径违法 ( 通过贿赂 等手段 )
- ☐ Illegal mining in forest land



#### Administrative Management 行政管理

#### (2) Taxes 相关税费

- □ Selling forest products lower than market price, reducing profits and corporate and individual income tax 低于市场价格出售林产品,减少利润和企业、个人所得税
- □ Purchasing forest products higher than market price, reducing profits and corporate and individual income tax 高于市场价格购买入产品,减少利润和企业、个人所得税
- □ 未支付许可费用、税收、罚款和其他行政费用。 Unpaid license fees, taxes, fines and other administrative costs



## Government Response to Illegal Logging



美国雷斯法案



欧盟木材法规



澳大利亚禁止非法砍伐法案



日本绿色采购政策



俄罗斯原木法案



中国木材合法性验证体系及木材合法性认定管理办法

## Chinese Timber Legality Verification System



2009 project kick-off

First draft of standards released in 2015, working with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties on pilot testing

## Global voluntary forest certification schemes

#### Global Schemes 国际体系



The mark of responsible forestry

Forest Stewardship Council Standards 森林管理委员会



The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification 森林认证体系认可计划

# National schemes endorsed by PEFC PEFC认可的国家体系



China (in process...) 中国 ( 申请中 )



Malaysia (COC) 马来西亚



Indonesia (in process...) 印尼



Chile (FM and COC) 智利



Brazil (FM and COC)巴西



USA (FM and COC)美国

## Structured approach to address timber legality DDS

- Key information collection and documentation
- Risk assessment process and criteria
- Risk mitigation process
- On-going monitoring, reporting and verification

# Key information collection:

- Supplier self-declaration
- Name of legal entity and address, including region and country
- Legal registration and evidence of operation in compliance with national legal requirements
- List of suppliers with contact details, including address, region and country
- Commercial or common name of the timber species purchased and used, or full scientific name when the use of the commercial name may result in ambiguity
- Volumes/quantity of timber or timber products purchased and used in the production process
- Commercial or common name of timber or timber products sold
- Volumes/quantity of timber or timber products sold

#### Risk assessment criteria

#### Risk assessment requirements can be based on

<u>Country level:</u> Some countries may be considered as presenting higher levels of risks due to: e.g. high levels of illegal activities, high levels of deforestation, corruption.

<u>Company level:</u> Timber must have been harvested by a legally registered company, within a legal FMU, and in compliance with legal requirements such as management plan, harvest license, etc.

**Species level:** Some species may represent a higher level of risk than other; e.g. CITES species, tropical species, etc.

**Supply chain:** The complexity of the supply chain and mixing of timber products from different origin will result in higher levels of risk.

**FLEGT and/or Third party certification:** FLEGT certificates (for EUTR) or other third party certification can be taken into account.

#### Risk assessment criteria

# Risk assessment framework can be based on 5 levels of risk, from negligible to critical risk

Risk level 1: **Negligible risk**; company based in low risk country, trading activities only, all legal documentation available, all production data fully available per species and per product, no protected timber species or timber product traded.

Risk level 2: **Low risk**; based in low risk country, trading activities only most legal documentation available, most production data available, no protected timber species or timber product traded.

Risk level 3: **Medium risk**; based in risky region, engaged in production activity, most legal documentation available, most production data available, no protected timber species or timber product traded.

Risk level 4: **High risk**; based in risky region, engaged in forest management, most legal documentation available, but most production data missing, no protected timber species or timber product traded.

<u>Risk level 5:</u> **Critical risk**; Some of required legal documents are missing or most production data is missing, and protected or controversial timber species or timber products could be traded.

#### Risk Mitigation Measures

Risk assessment framework can result in the application of 5 levels of risk mitigation measures to ensure negligible risk regarding the legal origin of timber and timber products

Risk level 1: **Negligible risk** – Registration as qualified suppliers

Risk level 2: Low risk – Registration, and additional risk assessment or document review required

<u>Risk level 3:</u> **Medium risk** – Registration, additional risk assessment during office audit required

Risk level 4: **High risk** – Registration, additional risk assessment during office and field audit required

Risk level 5: Critical risk – Registration, additional risk assessment during office audit, field audit and shipment inspection required

# Future perspectives

- Call for practical and harmonized criteria to make risk assessment work more operational
- Public information on legal companies/products
- Labeling requirement
- Solutions for SMEs (group certification model)
- Cost of compliance
- Implications for supply chain and quality management

# Thank You!