

U.S Efforts to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

Dr. David J. Brooks

Office of the U.S Trade Representative
Environment and Natural Resources
December 2010



Context

- Combating illegal logging and associated trade are part of a broader set of U.S. trade and forest policy objectives
- Complex problems that require a variety of tools and initiatives
- Bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation are essential

Key Elements of U.S. Efforts

- Consultation
- Transparency
- Capacity Building
- Partnerships
- Enforcing obligations

Trade and Market Related Activities

- Bilateral MOUs with Indonesia, China
- Commitments in Free Trade Agreements
- Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue
- Amended U.S. Iacey Act
- Public-Private Partnerships (RAFT and FLA)

Bilateral MOUs

Government-to-government consultation among relevant ministries and agencies

Commitments and mechanisms to enhance market transparency and cooperation

Opportunities to promote partnerships with private sector and civil society

U.S. Free Trade Agreements

- Comprehensive, including commitments useful in efforts to combat smuggling and illegal trade
- Environment chapters include a core obligation to “effectively enforce environmental laws”
- Environmental cooperation mechanisms build capacity to address these problems at their source.

Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue

- Builds on positive bilateral efforts with government-to-government consultations
- Shared commitment to finding effective and creative solutions
- Has allowed for exchange of information, promoted a common understanding of issues and discussion of collaborative, regional approaches

Amended Lacey Act

- Provides a tool to assist other countries and U.S. states in combating illegal logging
- Prohibits trafficking in illegally harvest plants and products
- Fact based, not document based; enforcement officials must prove illegality
- Requires due care but does not establish standards or require certification

Public-Private Partnerships

- Demonstrate the important role of private sector and civil society
- Develop and promote cooperative, innovative and market-based approaches