



THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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Forest Law and Governance Requirements PNG EFF Position Paper No.1 – Timber Legality Checklist Version 1, January 2007

Papua New Guinea's Constitution and laws require sustainable forest management. Sustainable Forest Management has also been endorsed internationally, by the International Tropical Timber Council (Objective 2000) and the European Union (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan). Definitions of legally produced timber should therefore incorporate laws that address the three pillars of sustainability – i.e., those aimed at economic, environmental and social objectives.

In Papua New Guinea this means:

1. **Compliance with statutory framework in granting of logging rights and harvesting of timber in compliance with conditions**
 - Compliance with the Forestry Act framework
 - Proper process in development and allocation of logging rights
 - Ensuring sustainable timber yield at a project level
 - Logging within permit boundaries and observing permit conditions
2. **Respect for customary land rights in areas that may be affected by harvesting of timber**
 - Free informed prior consent to granting of logging rights and selection of developer
 - Equitable distribution of financial benefits to local people
3. **Compliance with requirements regarding forest management, including relevant environmental, labour and community welfare legislation**
 - Compliance with Logging Code of Practice
 - Compliance with a valid Environmental Plan
 - Compliance with labour and employment laws
 - Compliance with International Labour Conventions (*Employment conditions, health and safety, slavery, child labour, indigenous peoples etc*)...
 - Positive record on human rights
4. **Compliance with requirements concerning taxes, import and export duties, royalties and fees directly related to timber harvesting and timber trade**
 - Compliance with forestry laws and permit conditions
 - Compliance with revenue and business laws
5. **Compliance with requirements for trade and export procedures**
 - Compliance with forestry and trade laws

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The Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum supports integrated rural community development and sustainable resource use through a viable and sustainable eco-forestry industry