



THE *PAPUA NEW GUINEA* ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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Media Release

International government body slams PNG forest management

A new report from the intergovernmental International Tropical Timber Council slams the PNG government for failing to ensure sustainable forest management and not enforcing laws and regulations.

The ITTC Diagnostic Mission was invited to PNG by Forest Minister Patrick Pruaitch to deflect criticism of the logging industry. But the Mission report endorses NGO claims of widespread unsustainable logging.

“At long last the lid has been lifted on government and industry lies and misinformation”, says Damien Ase, Chair of the Forum. “The PNG government cannot hide from these findings as they invited the ITTC to send this Diagnostic Mission and the ITTC has 59 member countries representing 80% of the world’s tropical forests”

The normally restrained and conservative ITTC report concludes forest management in PNG has “been plagued with problems” since 1975. These, according to the report, occur at all stages of the forest management process with laws not followed in allocating logging permits, logging operations not monitored to ensure compliance and market manipulation of log prices.

The Report praises the role of civil society in trying to expose problems in the logging industry and criticizes government attempts to remove the Eco-Forestry Forum from the National Forest Board.

The Report confirms transfer pricing is still a problems and reveals the lie in industry claims that SGS monitoring ensures legal compliance and sustainability. The report specifically identifies the “apparent price setting monopoly of a single foreign company with as much as 70% of productive forest”.

For more Information, contact the Forum on phone 323 9050 or email: teff@global.net.pg

Copies of the Report can be downloaded at

<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=179&id=3227>

PNG Eco-Forestry Forum

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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