

Tropical Timber: From Legality to Market Recognition



FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FORESTS



CARREFOUR INTERNATIONAL DU BOIS	2 3 4	NANTES FRANCE
	JUNE 2026	AT THE HEART OF THE TRADE
	TIMBERSHOW.COM	

TROPICAL TIMBER: FROM LEGALITY TO MARKET RECOGNITION

Tuesday, June 2nd 2026



Robbie Welch
*Group Compliance
Director, Tradelink
Wood Products*



Tom Van Loon
*Chief Sustainability
Officer, INTERHOLCO*



Richard Gyimah
*Executive Director,
Timber Industry
Development*



Emily FRIPP
*Team Leader of
BMRC&Efeca Director*



Françoise Van de Ven
President of ATIBT

Robbie Weich

Group Compliance Director

TRADELINK WOOD PRODUCTS LTD.

rweich@tradelink-group.com

M: +44-7825-909501

An importer's perspective – navigating EUDR requirements and translating due diligence into concrete sourcing decisions

- **Importers support legality and traceability,**
Responsible importers are not against transparency. We support strong traceability. We support credible legality systems. But we need alignment between producing-country systems and market-country expectations.
- **Source Country legality systems must be respected.**
Responsible importers need national legality systems to be recognised, trusted and integrated into international due diligence — not undermined, duplicated or disregarded.
- **A Large risk is duplication and uncertainty:** importers may have legal timber under the exporting country's system, but still face extra expectations from UK/EU authorities, customers, banks, insurers and NGOs.



Who is Tradelink?

- Tradelink Group was formed in 1989.
- Central Head Office in London
- Leading privately owned business dedicated to procuring, shipping and marketing hardwoods, plywood and allied timber products.
- Management with extensive experience in timber trading.
- The Group has a Responsible Purchasing Policy audited by the UK TTF and ensures environmental compliance in accordance with the USA's Lacey Act and the EU & UK Timber Regulations.

- Centralized administration Head Office in London with:
 - *Procurement offices* at source in tropical hardwood timber-producing regions of Brazil and South East Asia
 - *Trading Divisions* in the UK, USA, France, China, Canada, South Africa, and Portugal.
 - *Manufacturing* and processing plant / factory in Belém, Brazil



Products traded by Tradelink



Sawn timber



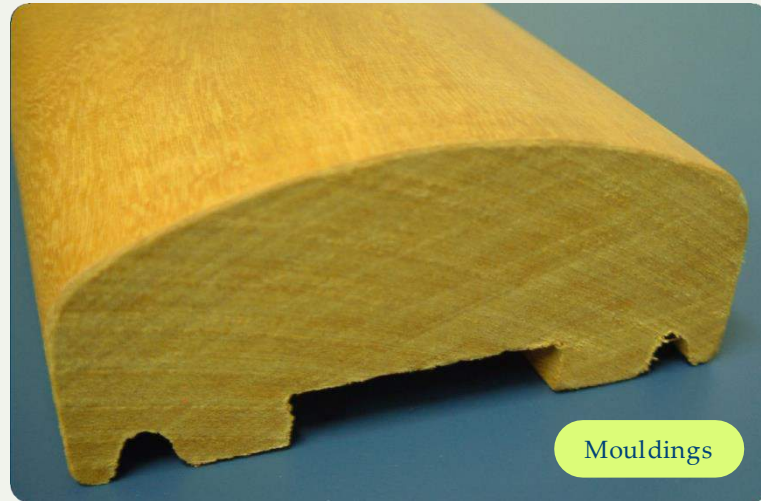
Railway Sleepers



Decking



Flooring



Mouldings



Boards Products



BEYOND COMPLIANCE: Sustainability & the EUDR



Tom van Loon
Head of Sustainability



AFRICA. OUR WORLD.

THE WORLD. OUR HOME.



+ PRODUCTION + LOGISTICS

IFO is part of INTERHOLCO. IFO is located in Ngombé, Northern Congo. Imagine 1,16 million hectares of forest. Our main export products are sawn wood, lumber, lam scans and decking boards.

Based on site in Douala, Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, we make sure our wood stock is delivered to our end-clients safe and sound, intact, ready-to-use – conform with national and international regulations.



+ SALES

Based in Switzerland, INTERHOLCO has sales offices/representations in China, Europe and the Middle East.



A natural wonder

1'159'000 ha
total surface



Forest management Unit Ngombé in the Republic of Congo



<https://goo.gl/maps/ya2DbXPG7y7oovh8A>



Protection &
conservation
27% 310'000 ha



Community
development
4%: 48'000
ha



EUDR requirements

Wood and wood products sold, made available on, or exported from the EU **must be legal**, "must have been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production in terms of:



Land use rights



Third party rights



Environmental protection

New in EUDR compared to EUTR:



Labor rights



Forest management and harvesting



Principle of FPIC
(Free, Prior and Informed Consent)



Taxation, trade and customs and anti-corruption provisions



Human rights protected by international law



The answer for EUDR - Traceability

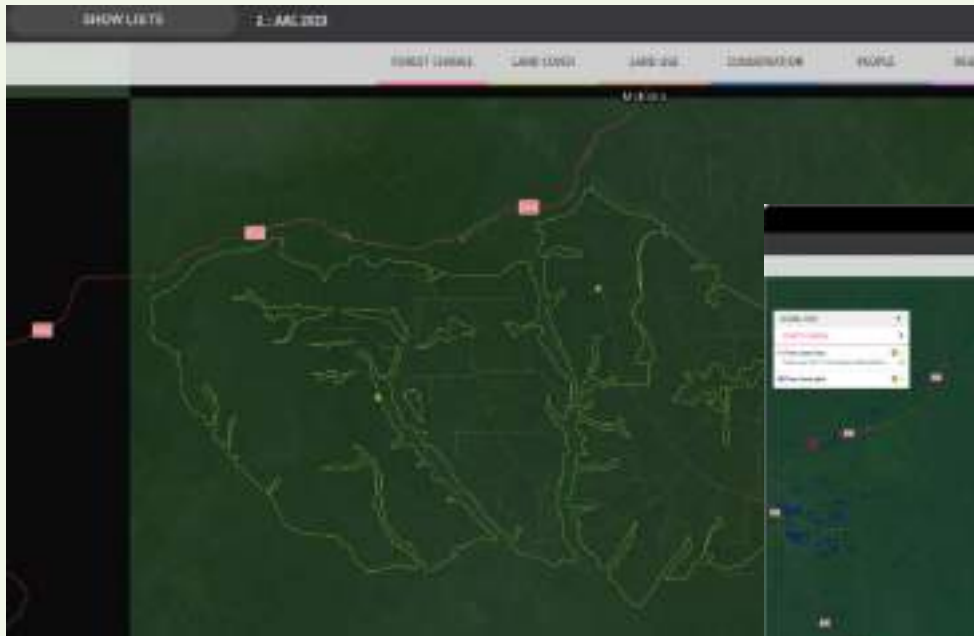
TRACABILITY



Traceable : operators must collect:

- **geolocation** for **all plots** where the wood was harvested
- the production **date/period**.

→ The concession and the annual harvest area (AAC) are geolocated, including inventory of all trees harvested.



*Above: There is **no deforestation or forest degradation** only **temporary forest loss related to timber harvesting**, e.g. transport roads, forest log yards and due to tree felling gaps (and skidding not visible). The forest will regenerate, remains a natural forest with natural regeneration. Final verification if the whole area is harvested.*



The answer for EUDR - Due Diligence / SFM

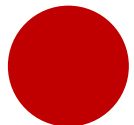


Our procurement

EUDR operators must exercise **due diligence** via:

- **Information** collection
- **Risk assessment** measures
- **Risk mitigation** measures

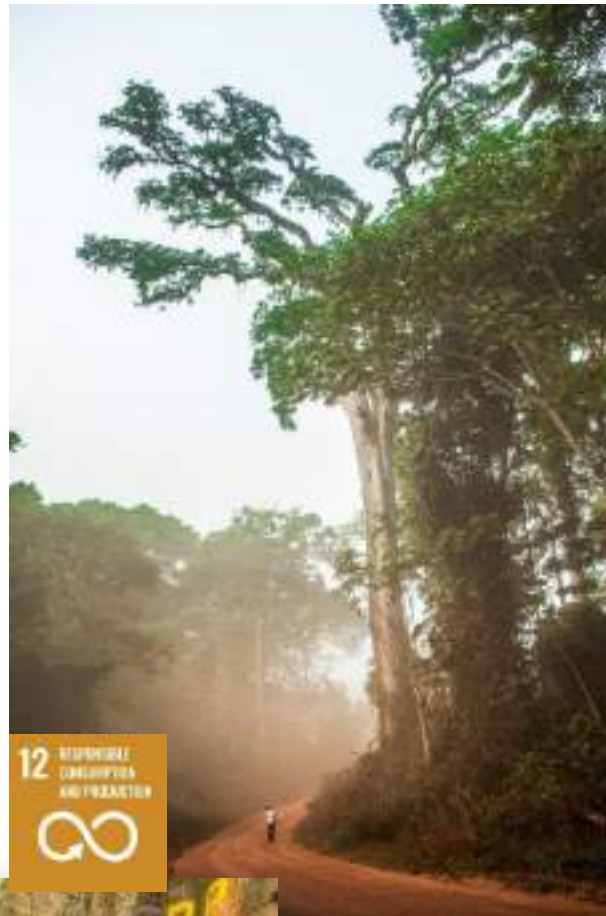
Interholco's has a **DDS** and **stepwise approach towards SFM certified wood**



Unacceptable: timber of illegal or unknown origin, or originating from deforestation or forest degradation

The answer for EUDR - SFM

FPIC requirements & protection of sites / resources by GPS



Environmental Landscape
1.159 mill. ha of natural capital

- 2.5 times more** large mammals than in non-FSC certified forests (WWF, 2022)
- 300'000 ha** Conservation Area (27% of total forest surface)
- Human rights** Training courses for eco-guards in Ngoinde forest and Mita-Akoko National Park
- 43** Eco-guards employed



Protection of endangered animals





**FORESTS
CALL
FOR
INNOV
ATION**

Thank you!

Partner with us:



Address

INTERHOLCO AG
Neuhofstrasse 25
6340 Baar
Switzerland



Contact Info

Chief Sustainability Officer
Tom.van.Loон@interholco.com



Telephone

+41 41 767 03 03



An aerial photograph of a lush tropical forest. The canopy is a mix of various shades of green, with a notable tree on the right side that has bright red flowers. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

From Policy to Practice – Implementing Ghana’s Timber Legality Verification System and Lessons Learned from FLEGT Licensing.

R. Gyimah (PhD)- Executive Director, TIDD of Forestry Commission

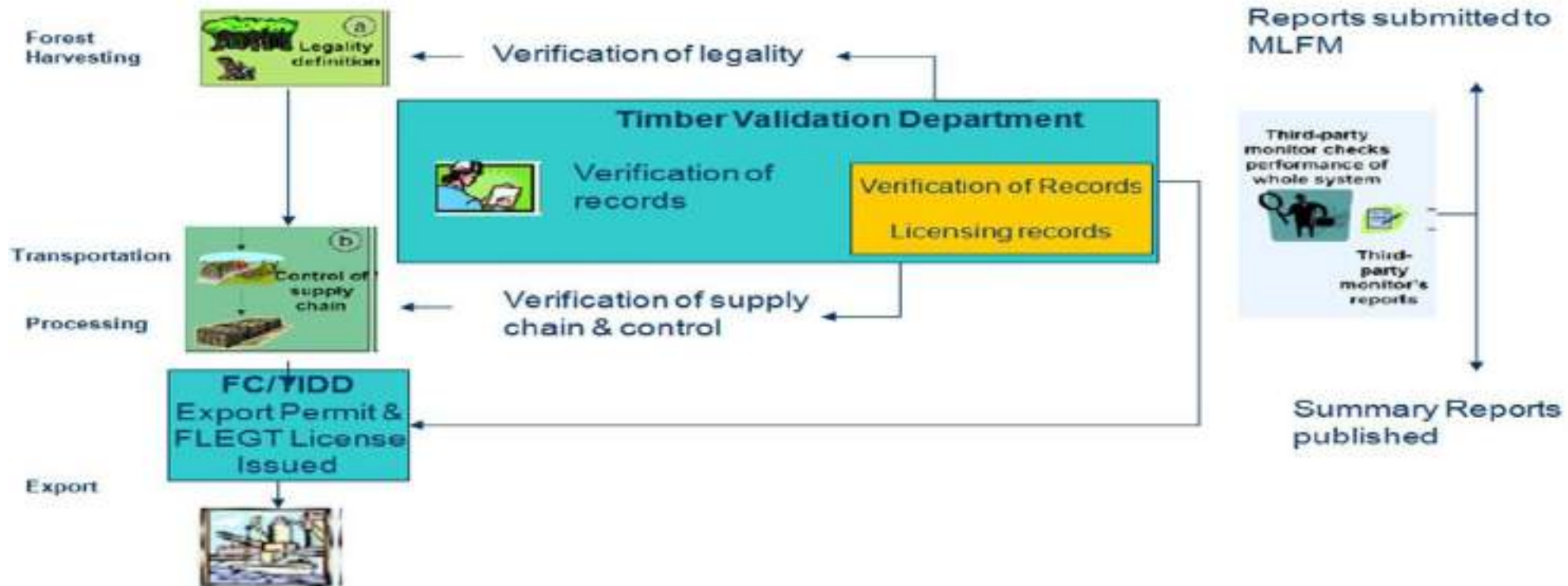
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

“ Tropical Timber: From Legality to Market Recognition

June 2, 2026, CIB-Nantes

Ghana's Timber Legality Verification System (TLAS) - Components and Scope

The LAS – Ghana



Legal Standard | Chain of Custody | Verification System | Licensing Authority | Independent Audit

LEGAL TIMBER STANDARD



**Legality Definition
aggregated into
7 Principles with
corresponding Criteria
and Indicators**

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
1	Source of Timber	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Management plans, Boundary delineation ii. Landowner, individual or group written consent.
2	Timber Rights Allocation	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Natural Forest and Plantation TUCs; ii. Salvage permit iii. Confiscated Timber
3	Timber Harvesting Operations	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stock survey/pre-felling inspection ii. Logging was carried out in areas designated for timber production iii. Logs accurately measured & recorded iv. Timber harvested corresponded (species, volumes, numbers) v. Stumps & logs marked according to logging manual vi. Compliance with relevant SRA vii. Payment of crop compensation

LEGAL TIMBER STANDARD

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
4	Transportation	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Timber transported with official documentation (origin and corresponding with physical identification of the timber)ii. Timber was transported within the time periods permitted by law.
5	Processing	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Timber processing facilities have valid licenses and registration with FC and complied with all legal requirementsii. Industrial relation practices conform to legal standards.
6	Trade	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Exporters have acquired FC permit.ii. Domestic Vendors have FC registration.
7	Fiscal Obligation	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Logger was not in default of stumpage fees or any other fees payable by loggers in Ghanaii. Logger was not in default of ground rentsiii. Exporter was not in default of export leviesiv. Neither Logger nor exporter was in default of corporate income tax.

Chain of Custody System (CoC)

Enabled by
Electronic Wood
Tracking System

- System that enables the tracking of timber and timber products from a forest or point of import to a point of export & domestic market (and vice versa)
- Systematically enables the identification and reconciliation of wood flows accompanied by the relevant documentation throughout the supply chain
- Decision support system to inform sustainable forest management and legal timber trade (country-wide database on producer compliance with legality definition)
- The CoC is based on existing business processes and procedures

FLEGT LICENSE FORMAT- ATTRIBUTES FOR GLOBAL MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Attributes on the Ghana FLEGT License include:

- Security features (Forestry Commission's watermark logo, system generated license number, seal & stamp)
- Trade information (HS Code, product description, volume, name & address of importer, etc.)
- Discussion with the EU to include QR code for
 - Key CoC and other relevant information
 - Geolocation information in respect of EUDR




A. EUROPEAN UNION		FLEGT B.	
ORIGINAL	1 Issuing Authority Name: Address:	2 For Purposes of Ghana Contract Number: Destination Country and ISO Code: Port of Discharge: Port/ME of Loading: Vessel Name: Importer Name: Permit Invoice Number: Importer Address:	
	3 FLEGT License Number	4 Date of Expiry 	
	5 Country of Export	7 Means of Transport	
	6 ISO Code [Ghana]		
	8 Licensee (Name and Address)		
9 Commercial description of the timber products		10 HS - Heading	
11 Common or Scientific Names		12 Countries of Harvest	13 ISO Codes
14 Volume (m ³)	15 Net Weight (kg)	16 Number of units	
17 Distinguishing Marks			
18 Signature and stamp of issuing authority Name: Place and Date:			

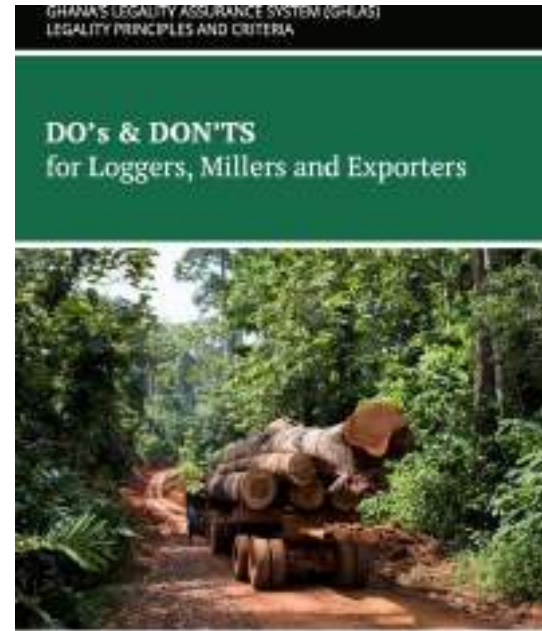


Forestry Commission

Aug 29, 2025, 17:23:16

Capacity Lessons from FLEGT Licensing Implementation

- ❑ The need to prepare Guidelines and Manuals to support key actors implementing FLEGT licensing
- ❑ It is very useful to develop Industry Portal to guide timber companies in production and compliance management
- ❑ The need to develop Transparency Portal for public and CSO monitoring
- ❑ Regular training and engagement with key stakeholders on the TLAS



Technical Lessons from FLEGT Licensing Implementation



- There is the need for shipment test to identify potential operational challenges and address them before and during final rollout stage

- There is the to developed FLEGT Portal for electronic license verification (i.e. for the EU side/importers)

- Ghana needs to expand VPA product scope to include new wood products

- FLEGT licenses amended to:
 - capture both volume and weight
 - Introduction of consignee details for third-party logistics arrangements

Policy & Innovation Lessons from FLEGT Implementation



- There is enhanced confidence and global acceptance in Ghanaian timber exports as Ghana's system is built on internationally recognized initiative- the FLEGT VPA
 - ❑ The Ghana FLEGT Process has been transformational and needs to be valued and recognized because it delivers more than legality and complements sustainability
 - ❑ The process for reaching agreement on the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) involved inclusive stakeholder engagement over many years and also, enactment of legislative instrument
- Strengthened institutional coordination and compliance amongst government actors in the FLEGT Licensing System
- The benefits of an effective TLAS go way beyond the delivery of legality licenses - there is assurance of responsible forest management and flow of benefit to local communities (social infrastructure & job opportunities)
- The TLAS provides a loop for continuous learning for all actors (private sector, government and civil society) in the Ghana Legality Assurance System (i.e. effective identification of systemic issues for redress in a timely manner)
- TLAS Strongly complements forest certification and the new EUDR (Deforestation-free and legally produced or harvested commodities)



**BROADER MARKET
RECOGNITION
COALITION**

EMILY FRIPP, TEAM LEADER BMRC SUPPORT TEAM

Carrefour International du Bois

Juin 2026

bmrc@forestgovernance.org

www.forestgovernance.org



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NEWSLETTER

Strengthening alignment between production systems and market expectations through collective action

Françoise Van de Ven, ATIBT President

Timber Associations/federations in producing countries and importer countries.

The goals and missions of these associations depend on the country in which they are based, as well as on national forest and timber policies and legislation. In this context, association leaders play a key role. Their responsibilities include:

1. Facilitating relationships among members and with other stakeholders
2. Advising members on the interpretation of national and international laws and regulations
3. Promoting constructive relationships between public authorities and the wood industry
4. Developing proposals while taking their potential outcomes and impacts into account
5. Defending the general interests of the timber industry and forest sector
6. Promoting studies of general interest in the forest and wood sector, especially on sustainable forest management, value-added wood processing, marketing, and access to global markets for legal, traceable, and/or certified timber
7. Maintaining a regularly updated website to inform stakeholders about the association's activities, goals, missions, and membership

***CODE OF CONDUCT – HAVING COMMON GOALS/MISSIONS – PROMOTING/MARKETING
LEGAL, SUSTAINABLE AND/OR CERTIFIED TIMBER***

1. An analysis of the statutes, codes, charters and other documents of associations in the countries of production in Central Africa and associations in Europe and Asia shows that almost all of them have the same missions and objectives, but sometimes at less important or less developed levels
2. The conclusion is that the aim of the members of the associations is therefore to create favorable conditions for the production and marketing of forest/wood products that guarantee sustainable exploitation and processing in accordance with national and international legislation/regulations
3. A common, easy-to-interpret code of conduct helps all the associations and their members who share the code of conduct to develop common promotional and marketing tools that tropical timber really needs

CONCLUSION :

A better interaction and close collaboration and getting to know each others' difficulties, advantages and expectations might be a challenge but if successful it will be a way forward to promote sustainable, legal, traceable timber and timber products.

Moderated roundtable



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Open discussion with the audience



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Thank you for your attention !

Join us for our networking lunch!