

# EUDR AND CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER

## PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR EUROPEAN IMPORTERS

Understand European requirements and secure your supply chains through certified Congo Basin supply chains.



**TRACABILITY**  
From source



**LEGAL**  
Product

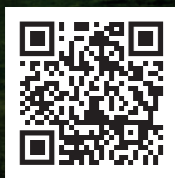


**DEFORESTATION-FREE**



**DUE-DILIGENCE**

### RESOURCES



TIMBER TRADE PORTAL



ATIBT BROCHURE "SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CERTIFIED FORESTS"



EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) PAGE



EC INFORMATION SYSTEM PAGE

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FIND OUT MORE →



# EUDR IN PRATICE FOR IMPORTERS



## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EUDR

From 30 December 2026, the EUDR requires European operators to demonstrate that timber and wood-based products placed on the EU market:

- are **legal**;
- do not originate from **areas that have been deforested or degraded after December 2020**;
- and present a **negligible risk**.

All timber and wood-based products must be covered by a Due Diligence Statement (DDS) before customs clearance

European Commission EUDR Webpage



## WOOD PRODUCTS SCOPE

All timber and wood-based products are covered, including sawn timber, panels, veneers, pulp, paper and paperboard. Recycled products are excluded...



## KEY TAKEAWAY FOR IMPORTERS

The primary responsibility lies with the first entity placing the product on the European market. The importer must collect credible information, assess risks, and retain supporting documentation.

The EUDR provides for penalties in cases of non-compliance, which may include fines, seizure of goods, or restrictions on placing products on the market.



## THE 3 PILLARS OF THE EUDR



### TRACEABILITY

Identify the origin of the product up to the plot of land of production (GPS coordinates). Clear and verifiable supply chain.



### LEGALITY

Comply with the laws of the country of production: harvesting rights, land use rights, environmental protection, trade laws, labor rights and the rights of local communities, etc.



### ZERO DEFORESTATION (AND DEGRADATION)

No harvesting on deforested or degraded land after December 31, 2020.

## DUE DILIGENCE

### THE 4 KEY STEPS:

#### COLLECT

Gather complete and verifiable information from suppliers: plot geo-location, species, volume, harvesting date, etc.

#### ASSESS

Assess the risk of deforestation and illegality based on the harvesting area, product traceability, supply chain complexity, and the reliability of the information collected.

#### MITIGATE

Implement risk mitigation measures where necessary to achieve a negligible risk.

#### RETAIN

Keep the Due Diligence Statement (DDS) and supporting evidence for at least 5 years after the product has been placed on the market.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



### ORIGIN

Where does the product come from?

- Identified plot of land.
- Geographic coordinates.
- Species, volume, and harvesting date or period.



### EVIDENCE

How is this demonstrated?

- Legality documentation.
- Traceability from the forest to the exported product.
- Independent controls and audits.



### COMPLIANCE

Why is it essential?

- Compliance with the laws of the country of harvest.
- No deforestation or forest degradation after 2020.
- Negligible risk under the EUDR.

## CERTIFIED TROPICAL SUPPLY CHAINS: AN ASSET FOR REDUCING EUDR RISK



CERTIFIED FOREST



RELIABLE INFORMATION



END-TO-END TRACEABILITY



EUROPEAN IMPORTER

Certified tropical supply chains already provide a wide range of tools that contribute to **traceability, legality, and risk reduction** of deforestation under the EUDR.



# CERTIFIED TROPICAL SUPPLY CHAINS: A STRONG TOOL FOR REDUCING EUDR RISKS

Third-party certification does not replace EUDR due diligence, but it provides useful tools for verifying traceability, legality and sustainable forest management, as well as for assessing and mitigating risks.

**! Certification constitutes one element of evidence within the importer's due diligence process.**

## GEOLOCATION AND TRACEABILITY

### EUDR objective

To link each product to its origin and the plot where it was harvested.

### Information that is available and verifiable at every stage:

- > Forest concessions and plots/Annual Cutting Areas (ACAs) georeferenced and legally established.
- > Forest inventories: each harvestable tree is geolocated (by ACA, species, and dimensions).
- > Traceability from the forest to the mill, and then through to export (continuous chain of custody).
- > Chain of custody certification (such as FSC®, PEFC™, or legality certification), ensuring the authenticity of material flows during field audits.
- > IT systems and documented procedures implemented at every stage.

### Key points for importers

Certified operators are able to provide:

- GPS coordinates of plots/ACAs;
- harvest information;
- batch traceability documents;
- the evidence required for the Due Diligence Statement (DDS).



## LEGALITY

### EUDR Objective

Demonstrate compliance with the laws of the country of production: forest management, environmental protection, labour rights, community rights (FPIC), trade and taxation.

### Regulatory frameworks strengthened by certification

Forest legislation in the Congo Basin covers the main legality requirements of the EUDR. The challenge for importers is to assess their implementation in the field, which may vary depending on the country, region or operator.

- > Certification provides independent assurance through regular audits, field verifications, document reviews, grievance mechanisms and transparency.
- > Documentary and operational compliance is monitored and reassessed by an independent certification body.
- > A strong track record of compliance with EUTR, FLEGT VPA and certification requirements.

### Key takeaway for importers

Ability to provide reliable documentation: certified operators can easily provide:

- harvesting permits and authorisations;
  - references for forest concessions and harvesting titles;
  - legality and transport documents;
  - FSC®/PEFC™ and legality certificates and audit reports;
  - information necessary for deforestation risk assessment.
- A certified supply chain may reduce the need for additional legality documentation requests.



## ZERO DEFORESTATION

### EUDR objective

To ensure that timber products do not originate from deforested or degraded areas after 2020.

### The best solution: sustainable management

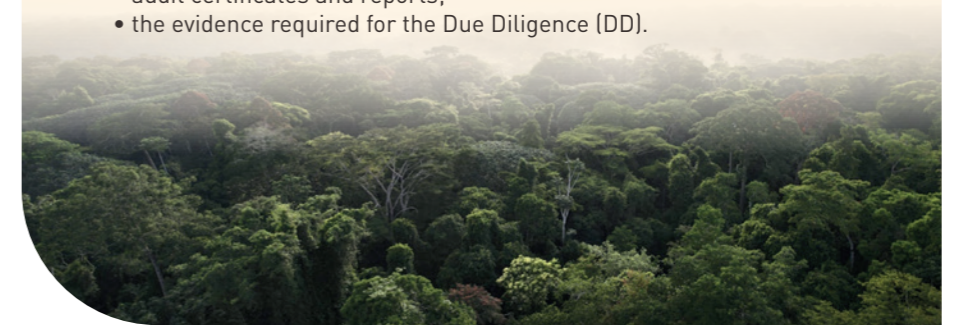
- > Sustainable Forest management that preserves forest cover and the ecological value of ecosystems.
- > Management plans based on forest inventories and long-term monitoring.
- > Low-impact harvesting and guaranteed natural regeneration.
- > Monitoring of forests and areas of high conservation value.
- > Monitoring of production areas and regular environmental monitoring.
- > Ban on converting forests (located within the state's permanent forest area).

**! Sustainable management of tropical forests relies on long rotations (25–30 years) and the natural regeneration of tree species.**

### Key point for importers

Certified operators may provide:

- details of concessions and management plans;
- geolocation data for harvesting areas;
- environmental monitoring procedures;
- audit certificates and reports;
- the evidence required for the Due Diligence (DD).



### FOREST CONCESSION / ACA

Georeferenced and legally allocated area. Tree inventories and forest management plan.



### HARVESTING OPERATIONS

Trees marked and geolocated. Harvest data recorded.



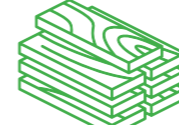
### ROAD TRANSPORT

Batch traceability. (origin, volume, species). Transport and accompanying documents.



### PROCESSING (MILL)

Controlled reception of timber. Matching of batches and documents. Identified production flows.



### CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

Independent verification of the traceability of processed products. (FSC®, PAFC™, Legality certification).



### EXPORT

Export documents, batch references, certificates.



### EUROPEAN IMPORTER

Receipt of information. Risk assessment and implementation of due diligence (DDS).



### EUDR COMPLIANCE

Information retained. Risk assessed as negligible. Placing on the EU market.



Certifications facilitate risk assessment; however, the importer remains responsible for concluding that the risk is negligible.

## WHY DOES THIS REDUCE RISK?



Reliable and verifiable information at every stage.



Independent checks and regular audits.



Continuous traceability and consistent documentation.



Improved ability for importers to verify compliance.




### FIND OUT MORE

Find out how the sustainable management of tropical forest concessions in the Congo Basin contributes to the fight against deforestation. ATIBT brochure "Sustainable Management of Certified Forests" available on the ATIBT website.





# PREPARING YOUR DUE DILIGENCE: WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU REQUEST?

To support their EUDR due diligence, European importers must collect reliable, consistent and verifiable information throughout the supply chain.




**PRODUCT INFORMATION**

- commercial and scientific species
- volume
- country of harvest
- supplier and production site
- harvest date or period

**GEOLOCATION & TRACEABILITY**

- GPS coordinates of plots/AAC
- concession references / forest title
- batch traceability information
- transport and export documents
- certified chain of custody




**LEGALITY & CERTIFICATION**

- operating licences and permits
- valid FSC® / PEFC™ or legality certificates
- chain of Custody number
- audit reports or references available
- documents relevant to risk assessment




**DUE DILIGENCE STATEMENT & RECORD KEEPING**

- retain the DDS and associated documents
- archive evidence for at least 5 years




### Key Takeaway for importers

Certification is a useful tool for risk assessment and mitigation, but does not replace due diligence under the EU Timber Regulation. The importer remains responsible for the compliance of products placed on the European market.

# USEFUL RESOURCES FOR PREPARING EUDR COMPLIANCE

## THE TIMBER TRADE PORTAL



### A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR EUDR DUE DILIGENCE

Developed by ATIBT, the Timber Trade Portal helps European importers to better understand the risks associated with producing countries and to strengthen their EUDR risk analysis.  
[www.timbertradeportal.com](http://www.timbertradeportal.com)



### The portal provides:

- country information and deforestation risks;
- key documents to check;
- information on legality and traceability;
- control systems and FSC/PAFC certifications;
- practical information on concessions, AACs and supply chains.



Risk must be analysed at the actual level of the supply chain and not solely at country level.



## UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

To better understand how certified forest concessions in the Congo Basin operate:

- management plans;
- forest inventories;
- low-impact logging;
- conservation;
- FSC® / PAFC™ certification.

SEE OUR  
BROCHURE

