



OPEN TIMBER
PORTAL



The **Open Timber Portal** is an independent web platform that promotes trade in legally harvested forest products by compiling information about forest sector compliance from government, private sector and third party forest monitors in producer countries.



The Open Timber Portal (OTP) brings transparency to timber operations and supply chains by making public previously inaccessible information about compliance with timber legality requirements and on-the-ground management practices. In one place, it compiles information from three different sources: official concession boundaries and operator information from the forest administration; documents uploaded voluntarily by companies to demonstrate legality compliance; and forest management observations by third party monitors. The OTP was designed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in consultation with government agencies, companies and civil society organizations. The OTP serves tropical timber buyers by improving access to key information on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and rewards timber producers for sharing information. It assists governments in achieving their goals for strengthening legal and sustainable forest management. The OTP will initially focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo and will progressively expand coverage to other relevant timber producing countries.

WHY IS THE OTP NECESSARY?

Better sourcing needs better information.

Timber importers and consumers are increasingly interested in proof of legal and sustainable supply chains. Yet, outside of a limited number of suppliers that have obtained third party certification, little information exists on the relative performance of suppliers—allowing for unfair competition with certified wood and undermining consumer confidence in tropical timber. The OTP levels the playing field amongst timber suppliers, measuring their performance according to the same metrics across the board and enabling market differentiation, independent of certification.

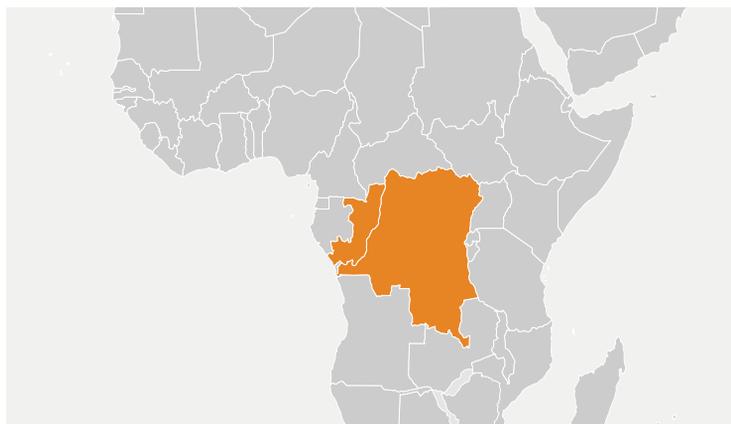
Many initiatives, no central point of coordination. The past 15 years have seen a proliferation of national and international

initiatives to improve legality and sustainability of the commercial forest sector, yet there is no central point of coordination of information on producers. This has resulted in significant inefficiencies for producers and importers, and has limited the effectiveness of these initiatives. The OTP will serve as a one-stop shop for information on timber producers.

For timber legality initiatives to succeed, effective enforcement is needed. Frameworks regulating timber legality have evolved and improved due diligence over the past decade, but they continue to be handicapped by inadequate access to information. The OTP supports the enforcement of key legality regulations such as the EU Timber Regulation and the U.S. Lacey Act.

WHERE WILL THE OTP OPERATE?

Beginning with the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the OTP will expand to other major timber exporting countries as resources and opportunities allow.



WHO WILL USE THE OTP & FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS?

Timber companies concerned about their reputations and their market access can:

- Use one tool to answer multiple requests to provide documentation on compliance and performance
- Differentiate themselves in the marketplace thanks to a ranking system, and benefit from the OTP's visibility among importers, enforcement authorities and the public

Government agencies in producer countries can:

- Improve forest law enforcement and monitoring
- Position the national forest sector positively among timber importers, since improved information access helps mitigate risks

Timber buyers across the supply chain, from importers to end-use consumers, can:

- Easily access key information for their due diligence processes
- Quickly compare their suppliers' performance and transparency with other producers

Enforcement agencies in importing countries can:

- Easily identify companies with good and bad compliance records
- Target enforcement actions and desk research

Third-party forest monitors in producer countries can:

- Improve the efficiency in planning and conducting desk research and field missions on forest sector non-compliance
- Enhance the visibility of their work and heighten impact

Civil society organizations and NGOs can:

- Campaign more effectively by basing claims on reliable and publicly accessible information

Donors supporting improved forest sector legality can:

- More easily track the impact of projects and support the work of Independent Forest Monitoring Organizations
- Facilitate coordination of forest sector projects

HOW DOES THE OTP WORK?

The OTP compiles information on timber producers from three different sources:

 GOVERNMENT	 PRIVATE SECTOR	 THIRD PARTIES
All registered timber producers, permit boundaries and contracts to harvest are pulled directly from the forest administration's database	Producer companies voluntarily disclose information according to a standard list of compliance documents and related metrics	NGOs and other qualified actors complement and verify information provided by operators

Validation processes are in place for the three information sources.

For each operator, a transparency score is calculated based on the percentage of documents the operator provides out of the total number of documents requested.

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ABOUT WRI

World Resources Institute (WRI) is a global research organization spanning more than 50 countries, with offices in the US, China, India, Brazil, Europe, Mexico and Indonesia. Our more than 600 experts and staff work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action to sustain our natural resources—the foundation of economic opportunity and human well-being.

FUNDING



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