

ASIAPACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)
EXPERTS GROUP ON ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE
(EGILAT)

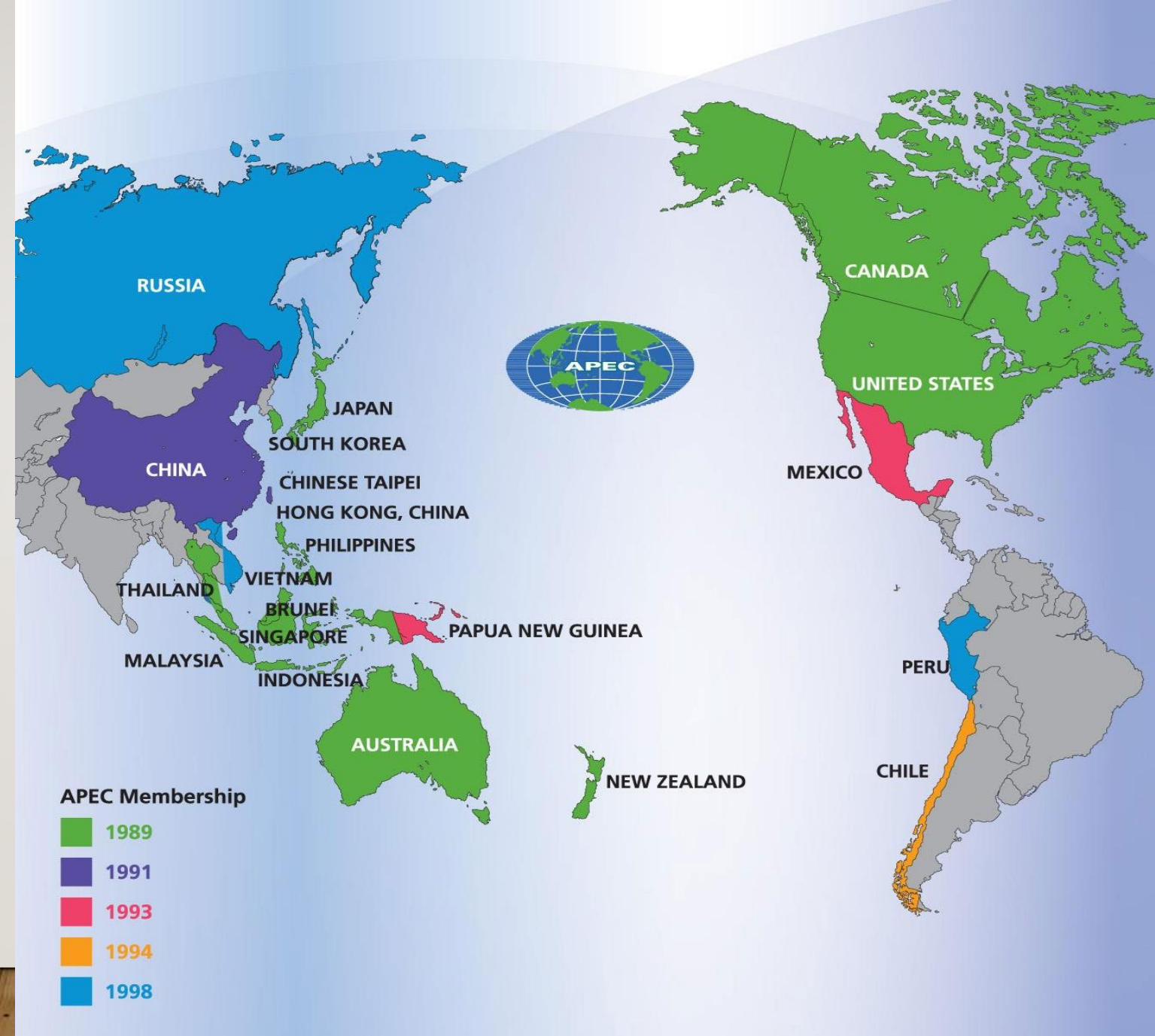
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The AsiaPacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum comprised of 21 member economies aimed at supporting sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Three Pillars of APEC's agenda:

- Trade and Investment Liberalization
- Business Facilitation
- Economic and Technical Cooperation



Established in 2011, the goal of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) is to enhance the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote trade in legally harvested forest products, and support capacity building activities in member economies

Based on FAO data, in 2020, APEC economies accounted for approximately 54.5% of the world's forests.

APEC economies contributed 43% of global forest products and 41% of the global trade in forest products valued at over \$344 billion in 2019





APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)

Timber legality guidance template for the United States of America

The purpose of this guidance template document is to provide APEC member economies with guidance on compiling the appropriate information for businesses and governments within the APEC region regarding timber legality laws and regulations in place in the United States of America. It follows from multiple discussions at EGILAT meetings in which it was recognised that it would be beneficial to compile the laws or regulations of APEC economies governing timber production and trade with a goal of supporting legal timber trade between APEC members.

[Note: This document should reflect the laws or regulations that are in place within each APEC economy. Where a particular element of this document is not relevant to an economy

All the documents referenced
in this presentation can be
found at:

<https://www.apec.org/groups/som-steering-committee-on-economic-and-technical-cooperation/working-groups/illegal-logging-and-associated-trade>

The APEC EGILAT policy theme from 2019~~20~~21 focused on:

‘Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products’

Recognizing that private sector entities are the key players in the trade and distribution of forest products, the policy theme sought to engage them to identify:

- the issues they face in legal forest product trade;
- the potential actions that might be undertaken to support them; and
- the resources and materials available to help



Some conclusions from the survey:

- Most common challenge faced is compliance with foreign timber regulations, particularly for MSMEs.
- The second most reported challenge is the verification of trade documents and certificates and ensuring authenticity and validity
- Verifying a product's geographic location of harvest and origin is also a continued challenge partly due to lack of information and partly due to cost.

Some recommendations from respondents:

- Continue to offer domestic government consultations to educate businesses on regulations to increase understanding of and compliance with regulatory requirements and to strengthen dialogue between economy regulators and private sector.
- Ensure MSMEs have adequate resources, capacity building, and opportunities for education and consultation. Conducting industry-wide education and awareness campaigns.

APEC EGILAT Survey of Private Sector Organizations in the Forest Products Supply Chain





Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

The Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region

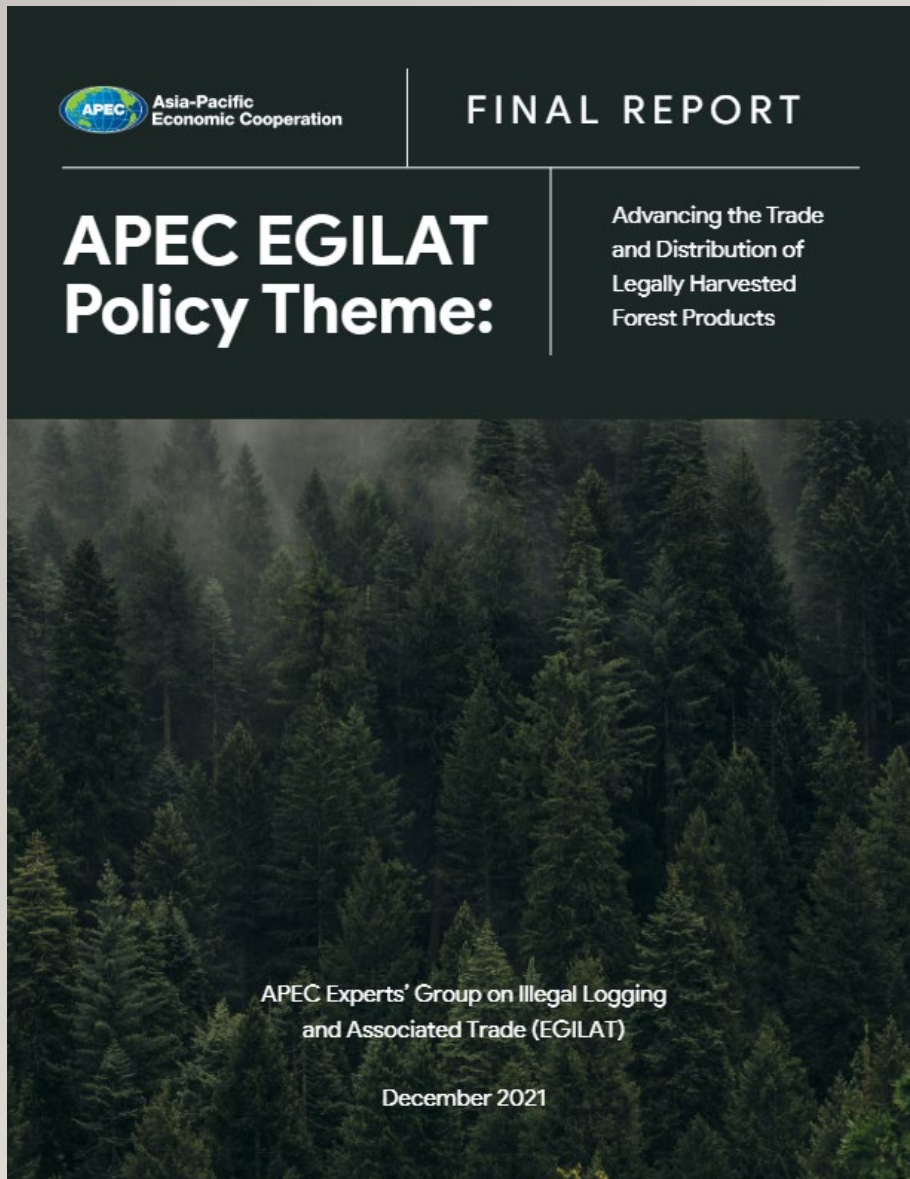
APEC Policy Support Unit

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A range of existing relevant resources, tools, and materials that can be used by operators to navigate economies' legal frameworks and determine legality in order to facilitate the trade of legal forest products.

Some examples of tools and databases referenced in the Compendium:

- Timberlex
- Client Earth's Forest Logbook
- FSC Risk Assessments
- Open Timber Portal
- Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) Reference Database



Some recommendations emerging out of Policy Theme One:

- Raise awareness of the tools and technologies that are available to assist with timber legality verification and supply chain traceability.
- Work with industry associations and others to provide clearer guidance around what is considered both 'best practice' and 'expected practice' for ensuring timber legality, and supporting uptake including through capacity building to ensure that MSMEs are adequately equipped.
- Encourage government to government cooperation to support common and inclusive approaches across different regulatory frameworks where possible (accounting for regionally specific requirements) and improvements to best regulatory practice, based on current and emerging information.
- Maximize the Compendium of Resources' availability and relevance, including by updating to an accessible web-based and indexed format, translating into multiple languages, updating regularly, and marketing widely.

The next EGILAT policy theme (2022-2024) will focus on:

“Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products: Navigating to legal timber”

Planned activities:

- 1) Technology Fair (Feb 2023) – A data and technology exhibition/workshop to explore emerging data tools and technologies that can be used to enhance the implementation of timber legality frameworks and to assist industry in trading in legal timber.
- 2) Stocktaking of existing approaches (including timber legality frameworks, measures, and other requirements) that APEC member economies utilize to promote timber legality and how industry engages with these requirements.
- 3) Workshop (Summer 2023) to discuss lessons learned and opportunities from the stocktaking exercise, and ways to improve the usability and dissemination of the Compendium.
- 4) Exploration of networking and integration of databases of xylaria within the region through (1) a study of various tools/methods in wood identification and harmonization of commercial timber names and a (2) training workshop on wood identification technologies and discussion on how this work can be integrated into timber legality assurance systems.



Thank you!

Questions?