

Illegal Logging: the International Political Context

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The paper covers international aspects of illegal forest use and related trade of timber and its products. To build up domestic forest and paper products positions at world markets there should be a consistent and confident for market stakeholders assessment procedure of forest products and legal activities compatibility. The paper highlights findings of world timber trade trend analysis, review of forest use regulation in timber producing and exporting states, comparison of illegal logging concept and evidence classification in various states.

International focus on forest problems shifted from sustainability performance control to law enforcement mode in forest sector. It is stressed that legitimacy is a new powerful concept in forest management. A new trend of range of states involved in forest sector legitimacy arrangement and development extension is stressed. Global legitimacy impacts mainly depend on political responses to new trade and global production regulation tools in Russia, China and Brazil. In foreign literature there is a distinct trend world division based on forest logging legality into global «north-south» developed importing countries with «sensitive» markets and timber and its product exporting countries usually located in south polar regions.

It is pointed out that illegal logging data in «north» countries in special literature practically is not available. Feasible legitimacy unfavourable impacts are forest product output growth at small uncontrolled facilities; rise of government motivations to release law burden regulating forest use; disturbance of established supply chains. 3 timber legality acts in the USA, EU and Australia don't accept FSC and PEFS certificates as a proof of timber legal background. Trade data statistics shows no changes as a result of the adopted Euro-regulation over the last 3 years.