

# U.S. - MEXICO - CANADA AGREEMENT

## SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND COMBATTING ILLEGAL LOGGING



The United States, Mexico and Canada are significant timber trade partners. Mexico imports nearly 70% of its timber from the United States, and exports as much as 75% of its timber to the U.S. (1). Illegal logging and deforestation, however, can negatively impact trade as well as weaken rule of law, damage and degrade critical ecosystems, and harm local communities. In Mexico, it is estimated that between 5 and 14 million m<sup>3</sup> of illegally harvested wood are sold each year, and that the trade in illegal wood represents a business of \$7,000 to \$20,000 million pesos or \$342 to \$978 million USD (2,3,4).

The partnership between USFS and USTR is working to address these challenges and promote sustainable timber management in Mexico. This in turn helps all three USMCA trade partners to strengthen the timber market by combating illegal logging, deforestation and forest degradation.

### GOAL 1

Strengthen Mexico's wood identification capacities, and integrate Mexico into regional and global wood identification efforts, including enhanced monitoring via Lacey Act declaration automation and analysis.



#### Outcomes from Year 1 and 2

- Wood assessment report: Interviewed 114 relevant actors from the government, academia, and the private sector to report on the current resources, opportunities, and challenges related to wood identification and screening within Mexico.
- Macro-scope wood identification workshops: Conducted seven webinars in years 1 and 2 on wood identification tools and technologies and best practices for combating illegal timber and associated trade for over 100 inspection agents, researchers, and other government personnel from Mexico; USG agencies such as the Department of Justice, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Customs and Border Protection presented at these webinars.
- Reference database for timber samples: Building a wood reference database to facilitate wood identification using the Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) mass spectrometer wood identification technology by collecting timber samples on expeditions within forest-dependent communities in southern Mexico, which involves collaboration between the Mexican Ministry of the Environment (SEMARNAT), local communities, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and NGO partners.
- Network graph model of the Lacey Act declaration: Produced a fully implemented model and auxiliary data with further refinement to continue throughout the project.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES



The USFS will strengthen monitoring and enforcement relating to USMCA Articles 24.15 (Trade and Biodiversity), 24.22 (Conservation and Trade), and 24.23 (Sustainable Forest Management and Trade). These Articles commit the Parties to exchange information and experiences on issues related to illegal trade in wild flora and fauna; improve inspection capabilities; strengthen government capacity and institutional frameworks to promote sustainable forest management; and promote trade in legally harvested forest products. The USFS is addressing these objectives through a Three Goal Plan to Promote Sustainable Forest Management and Combat Illegal Logging, over a three-year period.

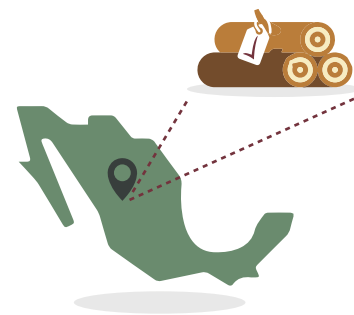
### Timber trade routes to and from Mexico.





## GOAL 2

Improve capacity of government agencies and communities to efficiently and effectively monitor their landscapes and enforce environmental regulations and policies.



### Outcomes from Year 1 and 2

- Diagnostic of park ranger and community groups: Completed semi-structured interviews of 12 key partners and an assessment survey of 170 park guards, inspection agents and relevant actors in Chiapas to identify pathways to improve effective monitoring and enforcement of forests and natural protected areas that are under threat from deforestation and illegal logging, as well as other illicit activities. Launching phase 2 of the project in year 2-3 to provide follow up training for identified stakeholder groups.
- Early warning systems (EWS) for deforestation: Facilitated EWS workshops for user-groups in Mexico and organized information exchanges with Peru. Started field verifications in five communities with the biosphere reserve la Reserva de la Biosfera Montes Azules in the state of Chiapas. Developing a mobile/online data capture system for detecting and reporting these alerts using CONAFOR's spatial data platform, IDEFOR.

## GOAL 3

Increase legal avenues for sustainable timber management and trade.



### Outcomes from Year 1 and 2

- Identifying community partners: Collaborating with NGO partners to train communities in financial analysis tools, allowing small and medium enterprises to monitor and evaluate costs and income, negotiate fair prices, improve financial management and transparency, and strengthen their long-term sustainability. Two NGO partners and four partnering communities (total 25 participants) in Chiapas completed a 6-week training on the Green Value Tool in year 2.
- Technical assistance: Providing technical assistance to community forest enterprises (CFEs) in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and the Yucatán Peninsula on timber and non-timber forest management and financial analysis for CFE business plans.



**MEDIO AMBIENTE**  
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES

**CONAFOR**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL

**PROFEPA**  
PROCURADURÍA FEDERAL DE PROTECCIÓN AL AMBIENTE

**CONANP**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE ÁREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS

## LOOKING FORWARD



The USFS and USTR will continue to work together and complete the action points under the Three Goal Plan to Promote Sustainable Forest Management and Combat Illegal Logging. This includes supporting wood identification, building a training program for national park employees to enforce environmental regulations and policies, and implementing financial analysis tools in communities to support the promotion of sustainable forest management and trade.

### References:

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Rachel Sheridan  
USFS Mexico Program Manager



rachel.sheridan@usda.gov

