Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Proposed Work Plan for 2014

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: EGILAT Chair
1. **Background and rationale**

Illegal logging and associated trade is a significant problem facing the Asia-Pacific region. It is driven by a complex set of factors and has adverse economic, environmental and social impacts.

In November 2010, APEC Leaders agreed to enhance cooperation to address concerns about illegal logging and associated trade. In 2011, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade instructed officials to establish an experts group in order to: (i) promote trade in legally harvested forest products, (ii) combat illegal logging and associated trade, and (iii) build capacity. In September 2011, senior officials adopted the Terms of Reference for the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT). The APEC Leaders’ Declaration in 2011 committed to work towards implementing appropriate measures to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products and undertake additional activities in APEC to combat illegal logging and associated trade. The new Group met for the first time in February 2012.

The APEC Ministers Responsible for Forestry in 2013 recognised the establishment of EGILAT in 2011. They commended its work over the past two years, and welcomed the actions developed under EGILAT to enhance the promotion of trade of legally harvested forest products and to support member economies’ capacity building activities.

The ongoing work of EGILAT will follow the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2013-17. It will contribute to APEC’s key priorities of strengthening regional economic integration and expanding international trade and investment in the region, giving particular support to the trade in legal timber and timber products.

2. **Work Plan 2014: Action items**

In response to relevant statements, decisions and priorities of Leaders, Ministers, Senior Officials’ Meetings (SOM) and the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), EGILAT will:

i. **Hold two meetings (in the margins of SOMs) in 2014** during which EGILAT will continue to strengthen policy dialogue and active participation between APEC economies, and consider and exchange information, views, experiences and analyses on relevant matters, including developments in laws, regulations and other measures related to combating illegal logging and associated trade. Specific activities will include:

   o **Presentations** by APEC economies on their policies and regulations for combating illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products, with an emphasis on timber and timber products (building upon presentations by some economies in 2012 and 2013).

   o Continuing discussions on matters within EGILAT’s **Terms of Reference**, including identification of capacity building needs; facilitating law enforcement cooperation and information sharing; information exchange on relevant matters such as developments in laws, regulations and other measures; new technologies; data on production, processing, exports, imports and consumption of forest products (where possible and available); and collaboration with industry and civil society.

   o Sharing of information on relevant **capacity building** projects related to illegal logging and associated trade.

   o Increasing member economies’ capacity to address illegal logging and associated trade issues, including securing appropriate **resources** through APEC and/or external funding mechanisms.
Engaging in discussions on projects and activities to be undertaken in 2014 or 2015, which may include:

- a workshop on developing timber legality assurance systems;
- discussions with representatives of non-member economies, international and regional organisations, civil society, private sector and industry at EGILAT meetings and events to share information, experiences, new technologies and lessons learned, where appropriate.
- further development of public-private partnerships in combating illegal logging and associated trade, building on EGILAT’s June 2013 ‘Private Sector Dialogue on Efforts to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade and Promote Trade in Legal Forest Products’.

Engaging in discussions and developing an understanding of ‘legality’ and the scope of laws that are intended to address ‘illegal logging’ enacted by member and non-member economies, as defined by their domestic laws.

ii. Assess and incorporate, as appropriate, recommendations in the Independent Assessment’s final report about changes to EGILAT’s functions and role.

iii. Increase member economies’ capacity to address illegal logging and associated trade issues by providing scope for economies to develop and submit concept notes to obtain APEC funding in support of activities that will further EGILAT’s objectives (building on those submitted by Peru and Vietnam in 2013).

iv. Seek approval for a second joint meeting between EGILAT and the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) in order to explore areas of common interest and to further EGILAT’s objective to increase law enforcement cooperation, common capacity building and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade.

v. Consider approaching the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) to hold a joint meeting on customs procedures issues for forest products.

vi. Provide scope for economies to obtain relevant information and carry it back for domestic discussion so that member economies’ policy responses are informed by EGILAT.

3. Anticipated activities with external organisations

A. Industry and civil society

- EGILAT will explore opportunities, as appropriate, to involve industry, civil society and other members of the public in its work through relevant projects and activities.

B. Other organisations

- EGILAT will continue to establish and maintain contacts with relevant regional and international organisations and entities, building on the invitation to the World Bank to participate in the 4th EGILAT meeting in June 2013.

- EGILAT will seek to ensure that its activities complement, but do not duplicate, the efforts and activities of other regional and international organisations and entities.

4. Coordination of cross-cutting issues

- Facilitating law enforcement cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade via continued discussion with ACTWG, which has identified illegal logging as a priority in its Medium Term Work Plan, and based on a joint EGILAT-
ACTWG meeting held in 2013 which proposed a joint law enforcement cooperation workshop in 2014.

- Increasing technical knowledge of relevant customs procedures, especially for imports and exports of forest products, by considering approaching SCCP, whose main objectives are to simplify and harmonise regional customs procedures and to reconcile and facilitate border control, to hold a joint meeting.

5. Expected outcomes/deliverables for 2014

- Facility for member economies to strengthen dialogue and share information on their governance, regulations, systems and efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade through presentations at EGILAT meetings and other means, which can serve to inform domestic policy.

- Continued active participation of trade, forestry and other relevant officials of APEC members in EGILAT’s work.

- Continued engagement and establishment of new links with relevant external organisations and APEC fora.

- Enhanced understanding of the term ‘legality’ in relation to ‘illegal logging’ by APEC economies.

- Identification of capacity building needs and resources – sourced from either APEC or external funding mechanisms – and development of project proposals for implementation in 2014 and 2015.

- Assess the information gleaned from EGILAT’s June 2013 ‘Private Sector Dialogue on Efforts to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade and Promote Trade in Legal Forest Products’ to guide future work including potential areas of collaboration with non-APEC organisations.

- Increased cooperation and information sharing in the areas of law enforcement and customs procedures, pending further discussion and the approval of relevant working groups.

- Implement the Independent Assessment’s final report’s recommendations concerning changes to EGILAT’s functions and role, as appropriate.

- Hold the 5th and 6th EGILAT meetings in 2014, with China as host.

- The full implementation schedule for 2014 can be found at Attachment A.
### Implementation schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Actions/Activities</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Lead(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>i. Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products, with an emphasis on timber and timber products</strong></td>
<td>EGILAT meetings</td>
<td>Meetings 1 and 2</td>
<td>• All member economies • Other organisations (by invitation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Inter-sessional information exchange</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reporting on EGILAT meetings and activities within member economies</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assess and implement, as appropriate, the Independent Assessment’s final report’s recommendations</td>
<td>Meeting 1</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development of 2015 Work Plan</td>
<td>Meeting 2, then inter-sessionally</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<td><strong>ii. Increase knowledge on technical matters related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, including:</strong></td>
<td>Representatives of non-member economies, international and regional organisations, civil society, private sector and industry to attend EGILAT meetings and events to share information, experiences, new technologies and lessons learned</td>
<td>Meetings 1 and 2</td>
<td>• Other organisations (by invitation)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Possible joint meeting with the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>• TBD</td>
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<td><strong>iii. Increase member economies’ capacity to address illegal logging and associated trade</strong></td>
<td>Workshop, concept note or other activity on developing timber legality assurance systems (including those submitted but not funded in 2013)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>• TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Identify capacity building needs and develop project proposals</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<td><strong>iv. Increase law enforcement cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade</strong></td>
<td>Potential follow-up workshop with the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group on law enforcement</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>• All member economies</td>
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<td><strong>v. Collaborate with international and regional organisations</strong></td>
<td>Invite representatives of international and regional organisations to participate in</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• Chair</td>
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<td>involved in promoting sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation, as well as those involved in forest certification and enhancement of forest law enforcement, governance and trade</td>
<td>EGILAT meetings or other activities to share information and experiences and identify opportunities for further collaboration</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• Chair</td>
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<td>vi. Collaborate with industry and civil society to raise awareness and contribute to national and regional efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade, and to promote trade in legally harvested forest products, with an emphasis on timber and timber products</td>
<td>Invite representatives of industry and civil society to participate in EGILAT meetings or other activities to share information and experiences and identify opportunities for further collaboration</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>• Chair</td>
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