

Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection



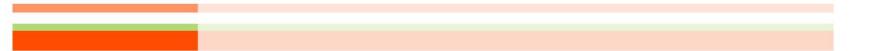
Conference "Genetic and isotopic fingerprinting methods

- practical tools to verify the declared origin of wood"

Eschborn, 3-4 November 2010

German support for fingerprinting techniques

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2001: first international workshop at the Federal Forest Research Institute in Hamburg

• Objective

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- \rightarrow to examine the potential of physical, chemical and genetic means to identify origins of timber
- 3 Triggers:
- Discussions on a G8 action program against illegal logging and German G8 presidency→ search for ways to contribute.
- 2) Scientific progress in Hamburg and other European scientific institutes proving that DNA in sufficient quality maybe extracted even from most processed timber
- 3) Promising experiences from the French vine industry
- → use of genetic fingerprinting for European oak, of which only specific provenances were demanded for the production of French vine barrels.



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• Outcome:

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- Outlining the potential and individual limits of the various methods.
- Support to a further examination of complementary methods for identification of timber origins
- Stressing the main purpose: falsification of reported origins but not the identification of concrete places of origin.

2007: international workshop in Königswinter, Germany, organized jointly with WWF

- <u>Aim</u>: state of the art of timber tracking based on DNAmarkers and stable isotopes,
- - <u>Participants:</u> 40 leading scientists from nine countries
- <u>2 main topics:</u>
 - 1) stocktaking of new methods of identifying timber species and timber origins
 - 2) developing and managing reference data bases.

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2007: international workshop in Königswinter, Germany, organized jointly with WWF

Results:

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 Clear positive feedback on the proven potential and on the cost-effectiveness of the methods.

Recommendations:

- 1) continuation with genetic and isotope methods complementary to one another
- 2) further networking
- 3) scoping for an international organisation to take over work on databanks and international standard setting
- 4) awareness raising and political decision on priorisation of tree species \rightarrow start of listing process.

The way forward

- The Königswinter recommendations served as basis and motivation for the German government and partners.
- Germany will continue its engagement
 - Develop further steps
 - Outreach to other international partners

Please also consult the information note



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• Thank you!

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