



**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**
- → to examine the potential of physical, chemical and genetic means to identify origins of timber
- **3 Triggers:**
- 1) 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.

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

- **Outcome:**
- - 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

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

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

- **Results:**
  - - 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 prioritisation of tree species → 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

- Thank you!