



Introduction into timber tracking and role of fingerprinting

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- **About WWF**
 - **What do companies know about their wood?**
 - **Wood Tracking Technologies**
 - **Certificates**
 - **Chain of Custody**
 - **Verification through Fingerprinting Methods**
-



Biggest independent private Environmental NGO

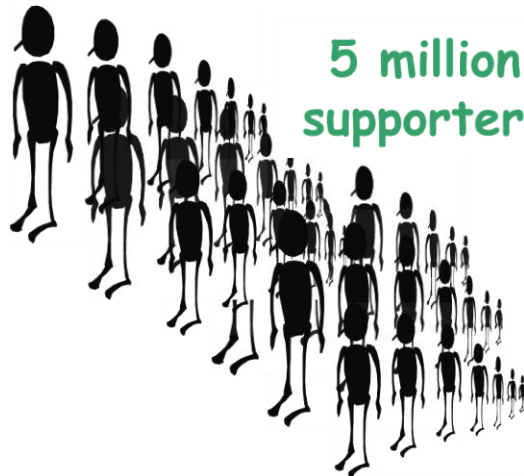


Operations in 75 Countries



5 million supporters

Approx 4'000 Staff worldwide





WWF's Mission statement:

**To stop the degradation
of the planet's natural environment
and
to build a future in which
humans live in harmony
with nature**





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What do companies know about their wood?

- In the past 27 % of German companies *thought to know* where their wood was coming from
- Documented case where an importer re-declared timber from Russia and sold it as “German timber” to customers
- Current WWF spot tests show that companies have wrong information about wood species and origin



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Wood Tracking Technologies



- Paint and chisel labels, Branding hammers; Nail based labels; magnetic strip cards, Smart Card; RFID labels...
- Misuse including intentional fraud can't be excluded totally



Certificates

- Proof of legality or sustainable forestry
- Third party verification
- Paper based documentation
- Wood tracking technologies play an important role
- Misuse including intentional fraud can't be excluded totally



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Chain of Custody (CoC)



- + Shipping documents
- + Certificates

- + Timber Tracking Technologies
- + Shipping documents
- + Certificates



Verification through Fingerprinting Methods



Information

DNA; Isotopes

DNA; Isotopes

DNA; Isotopes

Question: "Is the declared information about species and origin true or not?"



Fingerprinting Methods (DNA, Isotopes...)

- ... don't have to accompany wood through the Chain of Custody
- ... are independent from documents following the product
- ... are based on information **naturally fixed inside wood** – this information (Isotopes, DNA) can't be changed anymore



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Fingerprinting Methods (DNA, Isotopes...)

- **The knowledge about the origin of timber is not a sufficient but always a minimum pre-condition to make a statement regarding its legality!**
- If the result of a Fingerprinting Verification does not match with the declared origing of wood – all other documents accompanying the product (CoC) are put into question
- Fingerprinting Methods are an indicator of illegal wood



From WWF's perspective Fingerprinting Methods....

- ...could become an important tool of authorities to control regulations against illegal wood imports (e.g. FLEGT)
- ...are a fast way to control accompanying documents (e.g. CITES)
- ... have the potential to become a relevant tool for companies to control their suppliers
- ...could become important to shelter protected areas



Combination makes the system strong

1. Information that follow the CoC like CITES-documents, Wood Tracking Technologies, Certificates...

plus

2. Fingerprinting Methods (independend from the CoC)

Thank you....



EU imports of wood based products 2002

