

EGILAT's Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027

1. Introduction

The Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was established in 2011 in response to statements, decisions, and priorities of Leaders and Ministers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Forests and forest resources provide critical economic, social, and environmental benefits for APEC economies and the world as a whole. Based on Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) data, in 2020 APEC economies accounted for approximately 54.5% of the world's forests¹. APEC economies contributed 43% of global forest products and 41% of the global trade in forest products valued at over \$344 billion in 2019².

It is recognised that many APEC economies continue to face significant challenges from illegal logging³, and associated trade.

The goal of EGILAT as referred in its Terms of Reference is to enhance the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote trade in legally harvested forest products, and support capacity building activities in member economies.

The EGILAT will contribute to the achievement of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action, for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community:

APEC PUTRAJAYA VISION 2040:

"Our Vision is an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations"

Trade and Investment: "We acknowledge the importance of, and will continue to work together to deliver, a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment"

Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: "We will promote economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet."

¹ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

² <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GF>

³ In 2015, EGILAT members agreed in the "APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade" that 'illegal logging' refers to "*the harvesting, processing, transporting or trading of timber or wood products in contravention of the relevant domestic laws or regulations of the economy of harvest, where applicable*".

APEC's commitment to work towards the sustainable resource management of forestry and to combat illegal logging and associated trade is stated in the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

Aotearoa Plan of Action:

“Work towards the sustainable resource management of agriculture, forestry and marine resources and fisheries, including by implementing the APEC Roadmaps on Marine Debris, and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and commitments to combat illegal logging and associated trade”

The EGILAT Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is intended to guide its work over the next five years. It takes into account the work previously undertaken by the group as part of the EGILAT Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022, including the information and views exchanged in EGILAT Meetings and associated events held during this period.

During the period of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027, EGILAT will continue to focus its efforts on combating illegal logging and associated trade within the APEC region, promoting the trade in legal forest products. This work will be in line with the principles of EGILAT's Terms of Reference, the relevant Statements, decisions, and priorities of APEC Leaders' and Ministers' directives.

2. Vision Statement

EGILAT seeks to enhance the efforts of its member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote the trade in legally harvested forest products, and support capacity building activities in member economies, according to the EGILAT's Terms of Reference, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 including through the implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action, for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

3. Mission Statement

EGILAT's mission is to foster a strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote the trade in legally harvested forest products and support capacity building activities in member economies.

4. Critical Success Factors 2023-2027

EGILAT's ability to achieve its mission established in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027, depends on the following factors:

- Facilitating and strengthening cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade;
- The active participation of trade, forestry and other relevant officials of the APEC member economies in EGILAT's work;
- Identifying capacity building needs and finding, where possible, necessary resources to effectively implement actions for this purpose;
- Increasing the level of knowledge of APEC member economies on the scale and nature of illegal logging and its associated trade within the APEC region, and the benefits of the trade in legally harvested forest products and sustainable forest management, as it relates to EGILAT's goal. ;
- The willingness and commitment of APEC member economies to take actions to address identified problems;
- Capacity of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvest forest products is enhanced.
- Engaging with relevant APEC fora whose work interacts with and complements EGILAT's objectives;
- Engaging and encouraging the active participation of industry, civil society, and relevant international and regional organisations in EGILAT meetings and other events to raise awareness of, and contribute to, EGILAT's activities;
- Facilitating and strengthening law enforcement cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, consistent with domestic law and in accordance with applicable international agreements;
- Sharing of information regarding policies, laws, and regulations in APEC economies to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products,
- Collaborating with international and regional forestry organisations working on sustainable forest management and rehabilitation, where appropriate, and endeavouring to ensure that EGILAT's activities complement and do not duplicate activities being carried out in those organizations;
- The support of APEC, through its funding initiatives and the work of the Secretariat.

5. **Objectives and Key Performance Indicators 2023-2027**

Objective	Key Performance Indicators
i Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products;	• Member economies actively participate in EGILAT's work program. This participation will include, but not be limited to, consistent representation at meetings and active inter-sessional work and information exchange; • Member economies actively support and contribute to EGILAT policy themes and other agreed activities.

Objective	Key Performance Indicators
	• Number of member economies presenting and exchanging information in EGILAT meetings each year on their experiences (including any challenges and successes) in combating illegal logging and its associated trade, and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products. Volunteer member economies are encouraged to give a brief update • EGILAT collaborates with relevant APEC Working Groups or fora⁴, and other international and regional organizations, to address important cross cutting issues, including but not limited to, law enforcement cooperation, customs procedures, role of SMEs, data sharing and use of technology ⁵ sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; • Member economies compile and update the information described in the EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance Template (TLGT) in accordance with the APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, and effectively disseminate the information, including through publishing it on a public APEC website. By 2027, EGILAT aims to have at least three new TLGTs by member economies who have not yet submitted TLGTs. • Maintenance, broader dissemination and use of the Compendium of Resources by APEC Secretariat, Member economies, and partner organizations.
ii Exchange information and increase knowledge on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products, including:	• Member economies exchange information, views, experiences and analysis on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products;

⁴ Other APEC groups that may be relevant to the work of EGILAT include, but are not limited to, the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG), the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and the Transportation Working Group (TWG).

⁵ Examples are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Objective	Key Performance Indicators
• Developments in laws, regulations and other measures • New technologies; • Data and other information on production, processing, exports, imports and consumption of forest products;	• Number of member economies that share information on the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and other measures in their economies relevant to illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products. Volunteer member economies are encouraged to give a brief update. • Representatives of non-member economies, international organisations, regional organisations, civil society and industry attend EGILAT meetings, workshops or other events, as appropriate, to share information; • EGILAT is seen by member economies and other APEC fora as an important/effective forum for sharing experiences and lesson learned on the implementation of policies, laws, regulations and other measures to combat illegal logging and its associated trade and to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products in the region; • Projects are developed around priority knowledge sharing topics and the appropriate vehicle to share the resultant information is considered (e.g. joint research projects, pilots, policy briefs, case studies, dialogues, etc.); • New information, including research and analysis, is incorporated and informs EGILAT' work.
iii Identify capacity needs of APEC economies and develop targeted capacity building assistance in order for economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote the trade in legally harvested forest products.	• Capacity building needs are regularly identified through an annual survey or a dedicated portion of EGILAT meetings; • Member economies discuss and develop concept notes and project proposals designed to address capacity building needs or identify other appropriate vehicles for capacity building such as inviting speakers to EGILAT meetings; • Resources are secured to implement projects that will help build capacity, both within member economies and at a regional level, to combat illegal logging and associated trade; • Member economies make effective use of project resources to enhance capacity to combat illegal logging and its associated trade and to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products.

Objective	Key Performance Indicators
iv Facilitate and increase law enforcement cooperation, and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade, consistent with domestic legislations of each economy and in accordance with applicable international agreements.	• Relevant international and domestic law enforcement agencies are aware of and participate in EGILAT meetings and activities. This will include, but will not be limited to: > sessions focussed on facilitating law enforcement cooperation and sharing of information related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, and > effective collaboration between law enforcement and customs officials with respect to transnational shipments of illegally harvested forest product, and traceability systems for forest products; • Effective working relationships are developed with other APEC working groups, such as but not limited to the SCCP and the ACTWG, and relevant law enforcement groups such as, but not limited to, the Interpol Forestry Crime Working Group and Interpol Project LEAF; • Opportunities to productively expand cooperation with those groups and others are explored as appropriate. • Member Economies cooperate and share information on relevant enforcement measures.
v Collaborate with regional and international organizations involved in promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation;	• -The strategic objectives and work programmes of relevant regional and international organisations are communicated to EGILAT member economies, and, EGILAT actively engages, where appropriate; • EGILAT activities contribute to achieve APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and commitment to work towards the sustainable resource management as referred in the Aotearoa Action Plan. • EGILAT activities complement any initiatives undertaken by relevant regional and international organisations that are designed to promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; • EGILAT members participate in other international and regional meetings and activities that consider illegal logging and its associated trade and the promotion of the trade in legally harvested forest products; • Representatives of relevant regional and international organizations are invited to attend EGILAT meetings and other events to share information;

Objective	Key Performance Indicators
	- Regional and international organisations recognize the work of EGILAT and seek to engage with EGILAT on issues of common interest. - Working with other APEC working groups to explore opportunities to expand cooperation, as appropriate.
vi Collaborate with and encourage the active participation of industry and civil society to raise awareness and contribute to domestic and regional efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvested forest products;	- EGILAT acknowledges the contribution of industry and civil society in combatting illegal logging and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products and identifies relevant entities to support the work of EGILAT; - Representatives of industry and civil society attend EGILAT meetings and events to share information and experiences in combatting illegal logging and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products, and, where relevant, actively participate in EGILAT projects; - Member economies develop an increased awareness of the risk factors, scale and scope of illegal logging and associated trade within the APEC region; - Domestic and regional efforts on these issues are informed by EGILAT and its collaboration with industry and civil society partners; - EGILAT addresses needs of SMEs in successfully trading in legal forest products through workshops and discussions in EGILAT meetings and events.

6. Implementation Schedule

The Implementation Schedule is updated annually to reflect EGILAT's Annual Work Plan.

Objective	Actions/ Activities (to be annually updated)	Timing	Lead(s)
i Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products;	EGILAT Meetings	Twice a year	All member economies. Other organisations (by invitation)
	EGILAT Policy Theme	Ongoing	All member economies
	Sharing and exchange information intersessionally	Ongoing	All member economies
	Report back on EGILAT meetings and events to Member economies	Ongoing	All member economies

Objective	Actions/ Activities (to be annually updated)	Timing	Lead(s)
	Support APEC Ministers Responsible for Forestry Meeting(s), when held	TBD	All member economies
	Compile the information described in the Timber Legality Guidance Template and publish it on the APEC website	- Ongoing	All member economies
	Disseminate and use of Compendium of Resources	Ongoing	All member economies. Other organizations (as relevant)
	Update (as required) the information described in the Timber Legality Guidance Templates	2023-2027	All member economies
	Collaborate with other APEC working groups	Ongoing	All Member economies
	Share information on the development and implementation of relevant laws, regulations, and measures	Ongoing	All member economies
ii Exchange information and increase knowledge on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products	EGILAT Project 01 2022: Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products: Navigating to Legal Timber	2022- 2024	United States of America
	EGILAT Project 02 2022: Developing Integrated Timber Data to Enhance Legal Timber Trade of the APEC through Xylaria Networking	2022-2024	Indonesia
iii Identify capacity needs of APEC economies and develop targeted capacity building assistance to address the needs of those economies;	Coordinate within APEC and with other relevant regional and international bodies, and among EGILAT members to discuss appropriate vehicles for addressing capacity building needs	Ongoing	All member economies
	Conduct a survey, or dedicate a portion of each EGILAT meeting, to identify the capacity building needs of economies	Biannually	All relevant member economies

Objective	Actions/ Activities (to be annually updated)	Timing	Lead(s)
iv Facilitate and strengthen law enforcement cooperation, and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, consistent with domestic legislation of each economy and in accordance with applicable international agreements	Compile and share the Law Enforcement Points of Contact information provided by economies who voluntarily choose to participate in this effort by posting on ACS for use as a resource for law enforcement cooperation among APEC economies, consistent with domestic law and in accordance with applicable international agreements.	2027	United States
	Enhance participation of representatives	Ongoing	All member economies
	Representatives of relevant law enforcement organisations are invited to participate in EGILAT meetings and activities	Ongoing	All member economies
	Key outcomes or documents from EGILAT are circulated to relevant law enforcement organisations to inform them of EGILAT's strategic objectives and work programmes.	Ongoing	All member economies
v Collaborate with regional and international organizations involved in promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation;	Engage with relevant regional and international organisations to identify potential areas of collaboration	Ongoing	All member economies
	Invite representatives of relevant regional and international organisations to participate in EGILAT meetings and other activities	Ongoing	All member economies
vi Collaborate with and encourage the active participation of industry and civil society to raise awareness and contribute to domestic or regional efforts to combat illegal logging and promoting trade of	Engage industry and civil society to raise awareness of illegal logging and promote support for the trade of legally harvested forest products, including through the dissemination and use of Compendium of Resources	Ongoing	All member economies

Objective	Actions/ Activities (to be annually updated)	Timing	Lead(s)
legally harvested forest products.			
	Invite representatives of industry and civil society to participate in EGILAT meetings and other activities.	Ongoing	All member economies