

After-LIFE Plan

for

Increasing Awareness and Capacity to Support
Effective Implementation of the EU Timber
Regulation



With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union

The project in short and its achievements

The core project goal was to tackle the continuing lack of knowledge of the EUTR's sometimes seemingly complex requirements and show companies that due diligence is, at heart, good business practice.

Part of the project goal was to build due diligence awareness and capacity among SMEs, improving their knowledge and skills in assessing illegal harvesting and trade risks across the EU's core timber and wood products supply-base worldwide.

The project had three focus areas:

- **Awareness raising** about the problem and the regulation
- Creating and making available **useful tools and information** for timber companies to assess risks
- **Building the capacity** of timber companies by offering training in understanding the legal requirements and how to implement a due diligence system

Ultimately, this project has helped EU timber trade SMEs take a step closer to sourcing legal timber products consistently and effectively. This creates the potential for them to make a real difference for themselves and the wider trade, not to mention the forest. And the benefit is not just more effective EUTR implementation, it's also in terms of business opportunity.



The project has achieved a number of results:

- 40 Risk Assessments – extensive risk data, assessing the risks that companies need to be aware of when sourcing timber from a specific country. The risk assessments also provide guidance on actions the companies can take to manage or avoid the identified risks.
- Country Specific Tools – for timber companies to use to make the information in the risk assessments directly applicable to their supply chains. Specific tools for timber companies to help them identify and address the risks in their supply chains for example include a risk mitigation guide and a document guide.
- Due Diligence Toolkit – this toolkit includes templates such as supplier letters, due diligence guidelines, supplier management forms, supplier information forms, to name a few. Timber companies can freely download these and build their own due diligence system from them.
- NEPCon Sourcing Hub – contributing to the development of a platform providing free access to all information and documents produced by the project to help companies to assess risks and move towards responsible sourcing of timber.
- EUTR Workshops – events held in each of the twelve focus countries to provide specific training in EUTR and its requirements, tools available to comply with the regulation and training in how to use the risk information available on the Sourcing Hub.
- Case Study Programme – timber companies across Europe participated in the projects case study programme, which provided them with expert help to help them with their challenges in mapping their supply chains and setting up and implementing a due diligence system.
- Information material – articles, videos, brochures, press releases, news pieces and more were developed and disseminated to raise awareness about the EUTR and the project’s activities and outputs.
- Events – networking and speaking at conferences, again to raise awareness of the EUTR and the project’s activities and outputs.



Transferable results

The transferable results that originate from this project and its activities are the following:

- **Methodology and tools**
 - The methodology used for to develop the risk assessments, which has also been part of forming the basis for the development of most of the tools in the due diligence toolkit, can be used to provide the same level of information and develop similar assessments and tools for other commodities.
 - A good example of this is another project implemented by NEPCon where the methodology has been adjusted and used to develop risk assessments for other forest impact commodities such as palm oil, soy and beef. The risk assessments and tools builds on the methodology and the tools developed in connection with this project – they are all available on the [Sourcing Hub](#) together with the timber tools.
- **The event structure can be copied for other events in the future**
 - The developed structure and set up used to run the high number of training sessions means that it will be easy to run similar training sessions in the future. Considering the number of Operators in all EU member states, there is still many companies and stakeholders who would benefit from this training.
 - The UK Competent Authority has asked NEPCon to support on a series of training events they are hosting for the timber industry. They are using a structure similar to that used for the training sessions conducted by this project.



Strategy for continued dissemination of project results

The overall goal with this After-Life Plan is to ensure continued dissemination of project results and outputs after project end on 30 June 2018. The primary focus will be on continuing the awareness raising about the tools and data available for EUTR Operators. Additionally, the producer countries will be a secondary focus, to whom the data and tools will also continue to be promoted. The following will describe in more detail what the specific actions and activities will be to continue active promotion and awareness about the project results.

In addition to the initiatives mentioned here, NEPCon will seize every opportunity to disseminate the tools, data and communication material developed by the project.

Specific actions

Action	Promotion of the Sourcing Hub and its materials
	Continued promotion of the Sourcing Hub and the information and tools available on the platform will proceed through NEPCon's regular communication. This will help to maintain the level of awareness raising about the tools and data freely available and, thus, also the EUTR.

Audience	Operators and stakeholders interested in the EUTR
Dissemination channels	NEPCon PR, events, SoMe channels and newsletter
Source of finance	NEPCon

Action	NEPCon Newsletter – NEPCon Update The outputs will be promoted on an ongoing basis via the NEPCon newsletter. NEPCon will continue to promote this newsletter to increase the number of recipients.
Audience	Subscribers (595 at June 2018, previously 5000+. Starting over because of the GDPR)
Dissemination channels	Newsletter email
Source of finance	NEPCon

Action	Sourcing Hub Newsletter – Sourcing Hub Update Monthly newsletter with updates about the latest news relevant for companies assessing risks when sourcing. Also, a channel to keep people updated about the updates in risk assessments and promote the tools and information etc. available on the Hub. NEPCon will continue to promote this newsletter to increase the number of recipients.
Audience	Subscribers (320 as at June 2018)
Dissemination channels	Newsletter email
Source of finance	NEPCon

Action	Participation in events NEPCon will be participating in different relevant events across the globe and, whenever possible and relevant, the Sourcing Hub and its tools will be promoted.
Audience	Target audience and other relevant stakeholders
Dissemination channels	Physical presence and stands
Source of finance	NEPCon and future relevant project activities

Action	Training sessions NEPCon delivers a range of training sessions each year, in which the tools and materials will be
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	promoted and incorporated. They already form a central element of the LegalSource expert training course which is delivered three to four times annually, inside and outside Europe.
Audience	Training attendees
Dissemination channels	Physical training
Source of finance	NEPCon

Action	Website maintenance of the Sourcing Hub The site will be maintained on an ongoing basis because it is part of NEPCon’s website and funding for updating or improving the data will be sought on an ongoing basis
Audience	Visitors on the Hub
Dissemination channels	-
Source of finance	NEPCon and potentially other Funders

Action	Additional funding resources Monitoring for further funding opportunities and prioritise time to apply for relevant funds which will continue the dissemination of this project – directly and indirectly.
Audience	Target audience and other relevant stakeholders
Dissemination channels	-
Source of finance	NEPCon

Action	Additional funding for translation Funding for translation of the different outputs will be sought on an ongoing basis and translated versions will be made available on the Hub for everyone to access.
Audience	Target audience and other relevant stakeholders
Dissemination channels	NEPCon Sourcing Hub newsletter
Source of finance	NEPCon

Target audience and stakeholders

Target Audience: The overall objective of the project is to secure effective and efficient implementation of the EUTR. The responsibility for ensuring timber legality is placed on those companies who first place a timber

product for sale in the EU – called “Operators” by definition in the Regulation. Therefore, the main target audience are these Operators.

Operators can be divided into the two following groups:

Forest Product Companies - These are companies that are primarily concerned with timber or paper products. This group includes a wide array of trading and processing companies, e.g. paper merchants, timber traders, furniture makers, producers of doors and windows, traders in forest-derived biomass and biofuel, producers of composite products, sawmills and pulp mills. Many companies within this group are aware of the certification and eco-labelling options for timber products.

Retailers - Retailers also import timber or paper products from outside the EU and place it on the EU market, but they do not necessarily define themselves as part of the timber or paper supply chain because these products constitute a small part of their trade lines. A share of this group may be unaware of the EUTR and information is therefore necessary to make this group aware that the regulation also applies to them. Examples of such companies are retailers importing e.g. wooden household products, furniture or tissue products from countries outside of the EU and sells it in European stores.

A special focus will be on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), as they are the organisations that lack experience and capacity in dealing with the kind of requirements the regulation is placing on them. SMEs for this project are defined as organisations employing 11 to 249 staff members, which is in accordance with the European Commission’s definition of SMEs.