

ELIMINATING ILLEGAL FOREST PRODUCTS IN NEW ZEALAND

a joint forest industry, wood product sector and conservation group statement

We strongly oppose the import and the use of illegally harvested and traded forest products in New Zealand. Trading in illegal products contributes to deforestation biodiversity loss, poverty and other adverse social effects, and undermines the viability of legal forest products.

Prohibition of the import of these products will benefit New Zealand's legal forest products industries; assist in improving the producer countries' social, environmental, and economic well being; and show that New Zealand is responsibly addressing the problem.

We are committed to sustainable forestry - illegal logging is not sustainable and thus eliminating illegal logging is an important step towards achieving sustainable forestry globally.

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT

The Government must take a leading role in stopping the importation of illegal forest products into New Zealand. This can be achieved through:

- Establishing regulations that require verification of the legality of forest product imports into New Zealand. The legal requirements should specify the minimum standards for legality, and the requirements for verification and compliance systems

- Committing to international and regional efforts to address illegal logging
- In the interim, ensure the Government's procurement policy requires that forest products are legal.

IMPORTERS, PROCESSORS AND RETAILERS

In parallel with Government efforts, importers, processors and retailers have a key role and responsibility to eliminate trade in illegal forest products. They should do this by requiring imported forest product suppliers to prove forest product legality. At a minimum a third party verification process should be applied that demonstrates the:

- Forest product source is known and can be traced to the harvesting entity
- The harvesting entity has a legal right to harvest
- Legality of the chain of custody is not broken
- Forest product is legally traded (including compliance with CITES laws)
- Reliable, verification of legal compliance and chain of custody, such as third party verification.

NEW ZEALAND FOREST AND PLANTATION MANAGERS

Consistent with these goals, New Zealand forest and plantation managers will:

- Ensure they have evidence that they meet NZ legislative requirements
- Advise partners and associates on the position taken by New Zealand's forestry sector.

NEW ZEALAND PROCESSORS OF FOREST AND PLANTATION PRODUCTS

Consistent with these goals, New Zealand forest and plantation product processors will:

- Ensure plantation and forest product suppliers can provide evidence of legality of supply
- Provide information on legality of supply to customers when requested.

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ILLEGAL LOGGING

The parties to this statement will raise awareness of the problems and solutions associated with illegally sourced forest products to their members, associates and the wider public.

Signed by the following parties to this agreement in Wellington on the 14th day of August 2008

Ecologic Foundation

Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand Farm Forestry Association

New Zealand Forest Owners Association

Wood Processors Association of New Zealand

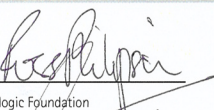
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand

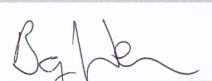
Sustainable Energy Forum

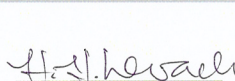
WWF New Zealand

Greenpeace Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand Pine Manufacturers Association


Ecologic Foundation

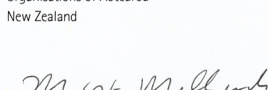

Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand

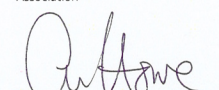

New Zealand Farm Forestry Association

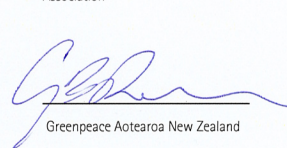

New Zealand Forest Owners Association

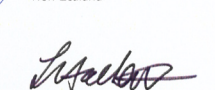

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