



GTTN

Global Timber
Tracking Network

GTTN WGM1 WG3

Notes of the parallel session of WG3
'Communication and Advocacy' meeting of 20
October, held at WRI, Washington DC

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Dissemination level

[X]

PU	- Public (must be available on the website)	
RE	- Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the donor)	X
CO	- Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the donor)	

Version indication

Version	Date	Distribution (who have reviewed)
V1	20171215	WG3 meeting participants (1 st step);
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1 Introduction

The GTTN held its first working groups meeting from 19-20 October 2017 at the World Resources Institute in Washington DC, back-to-back with the Forest Legality Week.

On the first day, the purpose and goals of the three working groups were presented by Nele Schmitz (WG1 standardisation), Tommi Suominen (WG2 database), Gesche Schifferdecker and Jo van Brusselen (WG3 communication & advocacy). Roger Young from Agroisolab UK presented a proposal for a charter (see below) and Pacyinz Lyfoung of PIIPA presented her work on intellectual property rights.

During the second day, three parallel workshops were held to discuss the upcoming activities of the three GTTN working groups. This document wants to inform on the discussions that took place, identifying the most useful activities for WG3, in one part on communications, and in another part on what is generally put under the denominator of advocacy, which includes topics with a broad stakeholdership.

GOAL OF WG3: Assemble needs of policy makers, practitioners and researchers to guide and fine-tune timber tracking method development; and inform researchers and stakeholders along the global timber supply chain network about available services.

2 Communications

2.1 Recognizing needs of different stakeholders

The aim of GTTN is to establish an open, informal network of scientists, public authorities and other stakeholders who are working on technologies and policies to reduce illegal logging and associated trade worldwide.

GTNN promotes the operationalization of innovative tools for species identification and for determining the geographic origin of wood to verify trade claims.

The GTTN Secretariat is responsible for actively maintaining and expanding the GTTN network. As a complex network, GTTN requires targeted communication activities and a strong joint vision.

Different stakeholders and roles require different communication tools and also identification of key messages, linked to the target groups.



Germany has about 20 thousand operators that are importing timber: in context of the EU Timber Regulation, these are first-placers of timber on the EU market. Australia has a similar number of importing companies.

Action item: make it clear that GTTN itself does not provide timber-tracking services but that it is the network service providers who provision the actual services.

2.2 Website development

Discussion about GTTN Communication tools resulted into following recommendations for **website development:**

- Easy digestible information about the different methodologies should be made more visible and accessible. It was recommended to revisit and reorganize the information on the following site: <https://globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org/users/innovative-tools-for-wood-identification>
- Related to the previous point, it was advised that guidance could be included on method selection, basing on already existing information such as the UNODC Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification
- All members should be regularly encouraged to inform the GTTN secretariat with timber tracking success stories, publications, events, so that GTTN can help with outreach.
- GTTN ought to consider translation of website and/or other communication materials into other key languages. GTTN secretariat will raise this issue with the steering committee and will make a cost estimate by the next meeting of the steering committee.

2.3 Information brochures

Outreach would be helped by the development of **tailored flyers** for each stakeholder group, e.g. for timber trade (due diligence/compliance perspective), donors (coordination of effort), law enforcement (evidence up to standard for court proceedings). The working group recommends the development of a variety of flyers accordingly. Flyers could be kept easy to digest, but could also include or either lead to e.g. infographics and statistics (i.e. included in the flyer or leading to website content that would be kept up to date more easily).

2.4 Communications networking

EFI collaborates with Al Jazeera, The Guardian, Euronews and the Global Editors Network in a project that will be launched in December 2017. This could be an excellent venue to promote timber tracking and how it can deliver impact on the ground.

3 Advocacy

3.1 Introduction

In GTTN, we will advocate within the science and service providers communities to promote for a wide contribution to and adoption of GTTN work on standardization and databases; towards the user community to promote uptake of GTTN services and to define client-oriented GTTN services; and to the donor community to facilitate coordination of effort and funding of complementary activities.

The following topics were up for discussion at the WG3 meeting:

- Handling of intellectual property rights and access and benefits sharing
- Update of the phase 1 priority species list
- Advocate for coordinated Sampling campaigns influenced by species list
- Develop research / action agenda
- Assessing market for GTTN services

3.2 Handling of intellectual property rights and access and benefit sharing

Collection, storage and exchange of sampling material, production, exchange and application of reference data all require investment of resources, and it involves or results into intellectual property for which certain rights need to be observed. When different stakeholders are involved in the creation and use of

reference data, a model for an equitable partnership would seem beneficial. This would not least take access and benefits sharing (ABS) as referred in the Nagoya protocol of the convention on biological diversity (CBD). GTTN should consider benefits for local labs and scientific organisations involved in the sampling and reference data development; possibly also consider the development of a 'reference royalty mechanism' both to honour the efforts of reference data development as well as in support of sustainability of reference data development.

Germain Yene Yene informed that Central African countries have laws in place on Access to resources (samples), under which private companies can only ease the access to "their" forest concessions/titles to sampling teams but don't have right to authorize sampling and/or exportation of samples. Therefore, the only way to deal with this is through cooperation with the authorities/government.

Pacyinz Lyfoung proposed the key jurisdictional limitations could be mapped, to find a way forward in that space. The CBD keeps track of ABS in countries. An approach could be that PIIPA could engage with various stakeholders to get their perspectives. This could not be done in the PIIPA-WRI project in phase I. It could be useful to talk directly with country government officers to ask what the problem is and their views on how it could be solved.

Action item: GTTN should consider a task force to develop general IPR policy good practice guidelines.

3.3 A GTTN Charter or Memorandum of Understanding to regulate IPR and ABS

Roger Young of Agroisolab presented a draft charter to regulate issues like data sharing and IPR amongst participating organisations. The charter was developed as a result of a USFS supported project with the objective to regulate handling of reference data resulting from projects supported by US public funds. The objective of the charter is very well in line with the idea of a memorandum of understanding that GTTN would develop to regulate standardization, sharing of and access to reference data, and in that context intellectual property rights and access and benefits sharing.

The development of an MoU will also be informed by the work on IPR and ABS that is being finalized by the Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors (see www.PIIPA.org), funded by WRI, as presented by Pacyinz Lyfoung.

Action item: It was agreed that GTTN secretariat would be open to circulate the charter for further commenting by GTTN members, with the objective to seek an MoU that could be proposed for adoption by GTTN science and service providers. In the same time however, USFS would need to continue with the charter development for its own operational purposes. Timeline proposed is to have a first round of comments in 2018Q1.

3.4 Regional meetings

Illegal logging and related trade is a global problem and we need to address it globally. We need common standards and create synergies. GTTN is a unique network with shared objectives, but with varying needs regionally.

GTTN will organise three regional meetings during 2018-2019, in Africa, Asia and South America. Regional meetings have to be prepared according to different regional conditions and specific issues at hand.

An important objective for all three meetings will be to inform local stakeholders about timber tracking, related benefits/opportunities as regards to current initiatives against illegal logging (local and international) and to link them to the GTTN network.

The meetings may be complemented with FLEG-T initiatives (including VPAs in partner countries where applicable) and market aspects, the applicability of timber tracking, but also about capacity building, reference samples and data development, IPR, biodiversity and ABS issues, amongst other.

It was especially pointed out in the discussion that it will be very important to clarify how GTTN fits in and contributes to already ongoing initiatives like CITES, VPA, SDGs.

Action item: Task force for Africa: Richard Gyimah volunteered to develop a draft concept note for the Africa Regional meeting, to be shared and further developed with Germain Yene Yene and Jo Van Brusselen, whereupon it will be shared with the wider working group and regional stakeholders in 2018Q1 (delayed from Q4).

Action item: Jo Van Brusselen will start development of concept notes for the regional meetings in Asia and Latin America and will seek inputs from regional stakeholders. First draft to be ready and shared in 2018Q1 (delayed from Q4).

3.5 Priority species list –revisited

A list of priority species was developed in GTTN Phase I based on CITES listings, the IUCN red list, species anatomically difficult to distinguish from one another, market importance etc. The working group discussed the need for updating the priority species list, on the basis of:

- Species for which reference data have been or is being developed since the first version of the list
- The updated CITES annexes
- Interpol infractions or prosecutions data; these data are also recorded in context of VPAs
- Changes in forest products markets and trading patterns
- EU competent authorities (CA) species risk list (e.g. UK CA, other CA may have this as well)

It was suggested that draft lists of regional priority species could be prepared and discussed at the regional meetings. It was pointed out that the species traded on domestic markets may differ from those destined for export, and that reference data would be needed also for application of timber tracking on domestic markets. However local markets also trade most of the species that are typically exported (as logs or sawn wood), and additionally offer some species not demanded by European/US markets (some of which are however exported to Asia).

Maria Kotsovou suggested that GTTN could prepare an on-line questionnaire for priority species e.g. with a link that could be distributed by Interpol to its relevant member country focal points.

Action item: Jo Van Brusselen to develop a concept note for a task force to update the priority species list. Harisoa Ravaomanalina and Germain Yene Yene indicated they would like to contribute to this piece of work.

Action item: GTTN secretariat develop on-line questionnaire to collect priority species info.

3.6 Coordination of sampling campaigns

The working group discussed the importance of growing the collection of reference data, by continued support to sampling campaigns. Such campaigns should optimally take the latest GTTN priority species list into account. As sampling campaigns are costly, donors would optimally seek coordination of efforts. Therefore GTTN, i.e. the network, would need to keep each other

informed of past and on-going activities, by means of an maintaining an up-to-date reference database.

It was noted that sampling should keep responsive to upcoming issues, such as enforcement cases, reportings by whistle blowers such as Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Global Witness.

Sampling campaigns should result in material that can be used to produce reference data for the different timber tracking methods.

In addition, it was mentioned that with the development of the reference database, inclusion of metadata on sample material should be considered. One-step further from developing this digital infrastructure, several people called for an actual physical infrastructure to securely and durably store sample material, backed with a sample exchange mechanism.

Sampling protocols may differ for the different methodologies and hence a GTTN sampling protocol should address the needs of different methodologies.

It was stated again that publicly funded sampling campaigns should lead to publicly accessible data.

Germany and Australia representatives pointed out that their countries take interest in possible funding future sampling campaigns. E.g. tree species of the ASEAN region significant for trade and illegal logging issues could be prioritized for Australian funding; between 100 and 150 thousand Australian dollars per project.

Shelley Gardner suggested that it could be investigated if the CITES secretariat would be able to financially support the setup/implementation of a global sampling campaign via the CITES TREE program.

Action item: A concept note on global coordinated sampling and sampling referencing and exchange needs should be developed. Timing not fixed: after the development of the priority species list or in parallel.

Action item: Notes on sampling protocols to be shared with WG1.

Action item: The overview of the UNOCD guidelines of the sampling cost could be updated. GTTN secretariat to contact Bernd Degen, Markus Bohner & others.

3.7 Assessing market for timber tracking services and facilitating market access and development

As part of GTTN awareness raising, outreach has to be organised towards key stakeholders in public services, SFM & CoC certification, industry, retail and trade. In a next step, GTTN should develop ways to assess their willingness to buy timber tracking services, among the different stakeholder groups. This should in turn inform an exploration of (potential/existing) business models for timber tracking services. It was pointed out that a lacking due diligence may lead to loss of reputation and economic damages or penalties that could easily outweigh cost of taking away any uncertainty of trade claims.

One of the purposes of GTTN is to increase the uptake of timber tracking methods and the service directory should be an important tool for that. It was mentioned that ring test between the different laboratories would be necessary to reassure the quality and that service providers can deliver the services they claim to provide.

Richard Gyimah suggested that this work could also include a policy review of where timber tracking can support policy implementation ref VPAs, CITES, REDD+ etc.

Action item: GTTN secretariat will develop a concept note and draft market assessment by the next working group meeting.

3.8 Advocate for funding and coordination at the donor community

A GTTN strategic research agenda composed of urgently important research, infrastructure and capacity development topics could be developed to help with advocacy and attract attention and support for the advancement of timber tracking in a coordinated manner.

This can be informed by the needs of different stakeholders and could address the following topics among others:

- Draw attention to priority species
- Development of sampling campaigns
- Methods development and testing
- Capacity building and infrastructure development needs

The strategic research agenda should be informed through continuous compilation of topics of interest, e.g. through the regional meetings, important issues flagged in the

working groups etc. It is suggested that upon the second working group meeting, present draft topics to be amended and prioritized by the GTTN membership.

Action item: GTTN secretariat to develop a concept note for the development of a research agenda in 2018Q1 (delayed from Q4).

4 Topics forwarded from WG1 to WG3

Discussions at the Working Group 1 on standardization often touched upon issues of importance for the Working Group 3. Here following is an unfiltered and unaltered list of topics, many of which coincide with the above-described discussion of the WG1. While the list is not integrated in the above meeting minutes, they are presented here so they will be taken into account in the work of the WG3.

4.1 Awareness & Fund raising

- Write a consumer awareness raising paper for the **broader public** (being aware of the [GTTN1 info material](#))
- Write an awareness raising paper for the **end-users** of the timber tracking tools (being aware of the existing [NEPCon manual](#) and the info provided by the [Timber Investigation Centre](#))
- Develop a strategy on how to portray arboreal DNA to make it attractive for **funders** (diseases linked to deforestation, link with climate change, link with air pollution, ...)
- Depending on the outcome of the WG1 task force on taxonomy (see above): Develop a **policy** paper informing on the need to use only scientific names along the timber supply chain.

4.2 Species prioritisation

- Do a **survey** to get on the ground information from timber trackers, companies, INTERPOL liaison offices and law enforcement authorities to assess where the needs are highest (raw wood/wood product, resolution of identification needed, country, species)
- **Update** the species priority list prepared during GTTN1 (available in the [WG1 workspace](#)) to the current/future (foresight needed as method development takes time and timber trade is fugitive) state of the most internationally trafficked species.

4.3 Reference samples

- In relation to IPR (intellectual property rights) and ABS (access and benefit sharing), develop guidelines for the consideration of **governments** to maximize access to reference data and sample material in an equitable manner.
- Ensure effective **sharing mechanisms** of samples and reference data, by **private** as well as by **public** timber trackers, to enable as widely as possible the capabilities to test trade claims.

4.4 Capacity building

- Facilitate a [GTTN developing countries'](#) discussion to identify and elaborate upon common issues and opportunities, learn from each other and to develop strategies to optimize collaborations within GTTN.
- In [regional workshops](#), attempt to bridge the traditional divide between civil society and law enforcement. Have participants prepare answers to the questions posed in § 22 under “national capacity” of the UNODC document.
- Support educational centres in promoting [wood anatomy studies](#) (as the start of all wood identification) and in wood identification in general as wood anatomists have a potentially critical role in acting as advisors on what (if any) other forensic identification techniques are available and/or required.
- Develop [metrics for wood anatomists](#) doing IDs to improve recognition of their value.

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www.globaltimbertrackingnetwork.org

The objective of the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) is to promote the operationalization of innovative tools for wood identification and origin determination, to assist the fight against illegal logging and related trade around the globe. GTTN is an open alliance that cooperates along a joint vision and the network activities are financed through an open multi-donor approach. GTTN phase 2 coordination (2017-2019) is financed by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).