tech for trees

From innovative tracking devices and wood identification tools, to instant import-versus-export-data analysis, technology is key to

stamping out illegal timber trade

Forests are the most biodiverse ecosystems on land, home to 80% of terrestrial species. We depend on them for the health of our planet and our own survival and wellbeing. Yet they face threats on numerous fronts, not least forest crime, which Interpol estimates is worth between US$51-152 billion per year.

More and more, governments, communities and businesses are seeking solutions focusing on legal and sustainable trade, because they understand how deeply human survival relies on forests. TRAFFIC is working alongside them providing technology, data and expertise to help stop ecosystem destruction by illegal timber trade.

TimberStats - pinpointing illegal trade routes

This unique platform was developed in FY24 by TRAFFIC with help from M.A.P. Scientific Services. It enables law enforcement officials and governments to pinpoint trade routes where illegal activity is likely to be taking place. It highlights significant inconsistencies between national import and export timber data - which should match up, or at least correlate, if the trade is legal.

TimberStats is a 'one-stop-shop' to fast-track processes that were previously highly complex, time-consuming and laborious. It encompasses data from UN Comtrade, the world's most comprehensive global trade data, on 77 countries in South America, sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

TimberStats is freely accessible via **TRAFFIC's Wildlife Trade Portal**. It is currently available in English and Chinese, with French and Vietnamese language versions following imminently.

"**The TimberStats trade discrepancy tool lays bare the greatest threats to biodiversity and sustainable development in timber exporting states: timber trafficking, fraud and money laundering."**

Elijah Glantz
Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
UK's leading defence and security think tank

> **I am so happy when people comply with legal and sustainable timber trade laws. Because this means they accept their responsibility in conserving and preserving the forest for future generations.**
>
> **Bhoke Masisi**
> *Licensing Officer*
> Tanzania Forest Services

An innovative hand-held electronic device, similar to those used for self-scanning shopping in supermarkets, can help transform forest management and enable forests and communities to thrive alongside each other.

Timber Tracker - revolutionising legal african timber trade

TRAFFIC has previously piloted **Timber Tracker** in Tanzania, where it has been taken up by Tanzania Forest Services and built into a sophisticated computerised licensing and monitoring system called FREMIS.

Since the introduction of Timber Tracker, revenue from timber has increased by around 50%, as illegal timber trade is stamped out, and local traders see the benefits of easy, transparent, and speedy processes.

During FY24, TRAFFIC trialled Timber Tracker in Cameroon – an important transit country for timber trade from the Congo Basin (the second largest rainforest in the world) through Vietnam and into China.

Following the trial, the Cameroon Minister of Forestry and Wildlife is seeking TRAFFIC's ongoing support in developing the tracking system as part of Cameroon's Forestry Information Management System.

These tools are generously supported through Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). NICFI is administered by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment in collaboration with Norad – The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

50% increase
of timber revenue since the launch of Timber Tracker

bespoke Timber Tracker
system now being developed in Cameroon