

# The Timber Investigation Centre

And its relevance to EUTR Competent Authorities

## Who is Earthsight?

- **MISSION:** promote the use of in-depth investigations to expose environmental and social crime, injustice and the links to global consumption
- Founded in 2007, expanded into fully-fledged non-profit organisation 2016
- Main area of expertise: **illegal logging and related trade**
- Also illegal e-waste; ivory poaching/smuggling; slave labour/clothing
- In the past, have generally **operated 'behind the scenes'**
- Helped research illegal timber cases for **EIA, Greenpeace, Global Witness, WWF**
- Based in London; 4 full-time staff, global network of part-time consultants

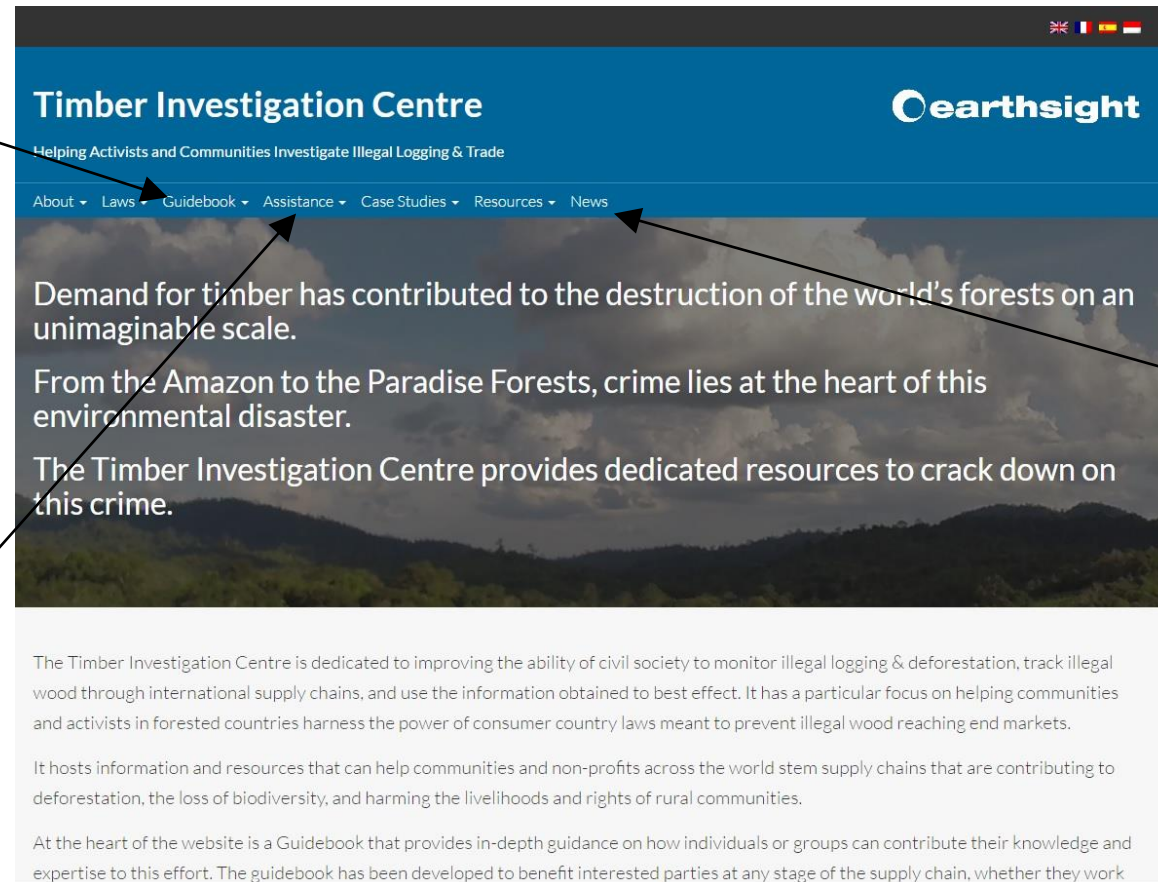
# Timber Investigation Centre



Helping Activists and Communities Investigate Illegal Logging & Trade

- **Guidebook:** How to collect evidence, analyse information, write it up and submit it
- Available as illustrated PDF and also directly readable in PC and mobile-friendly formats on website

- **Assistance:** Offer of 'pro-bono' help to activists, NGOs, communities in investigating cases and submitting information
- Limited funds: dependent on applicants having a large part of the picture already



- **Languages:** All content (except 'news') available in English, French, Spanish and Indonesian
- In 2017, Guidebook will also be available in Portuguese, Russian and Burmese

- **News:** Selected updates about major cases, legislation, technology etc. Can be accessed via a **Mailing List**

[www.timberinvestigator.info](http://www.timberinvestigator.info)



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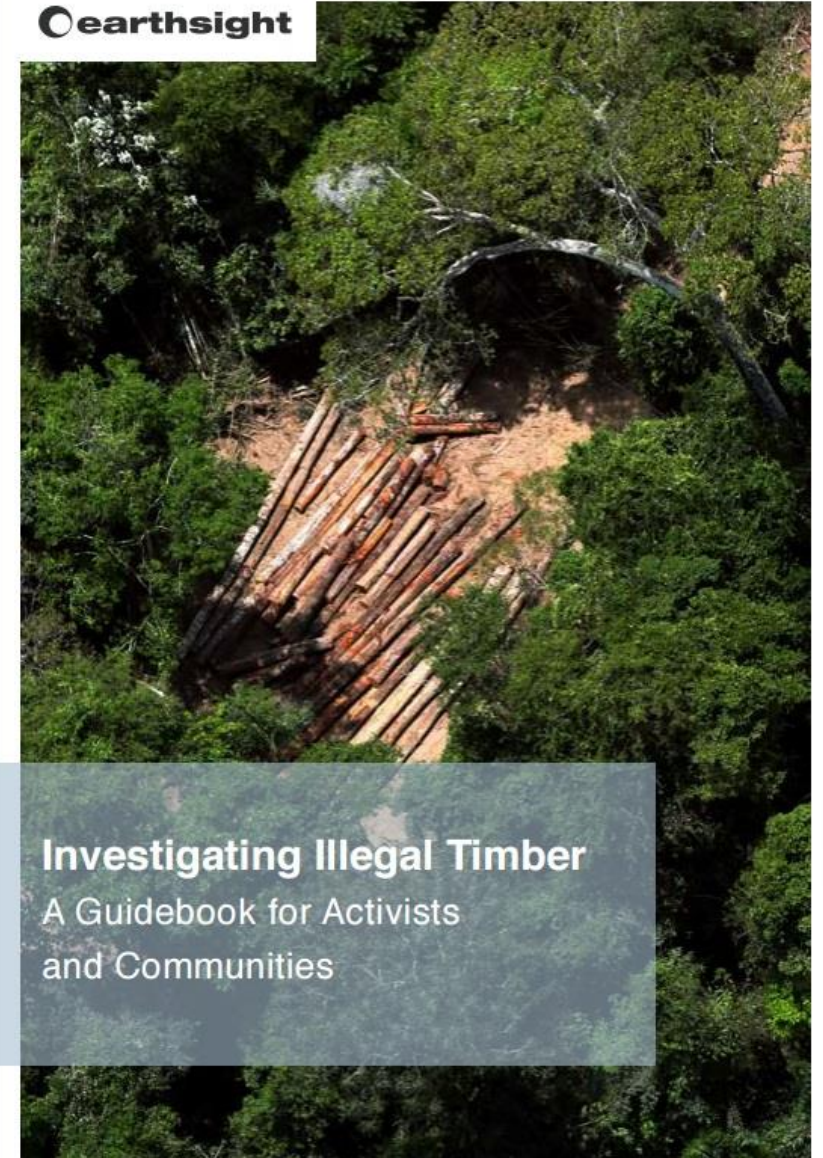
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## Guidebook:

- **Audience:** Main target audience is civil society, BUT also contains **information of value to authorities** (inc EUTR CAs)
- **Focus:** Principal focus is on making cases which connect to EU or US, but most advice applies more broadly
- **Content:**
  - Overview of EUTR/Lacey, how info from CSOs can support them
  - Different types of illegalities and how they can be documented
  - How to compare different datasets
  - How to trace illegally-sourced wood through supply chains
  - Available technologies (e.g. drones, isotopes, GPS trackers)
  - How to package information for best effect
  - Different ways the information can be used

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**Investigating Illegal Timber**  
A Guidebook for Activists  
and Communities

- 
- Paint marks on a log from Cameroon. The marks identify the logger, the license area, the specific block within that license area, and the date the tree was cut.
- Tag and hammer-stamp on a log from Sarawak, Malaysia. The logo on the tag relates to the logging company, and the three letter code allows it to be traced to a specific license area.
- Barcode on log from PNG. The code relates to a specific logger and license area.



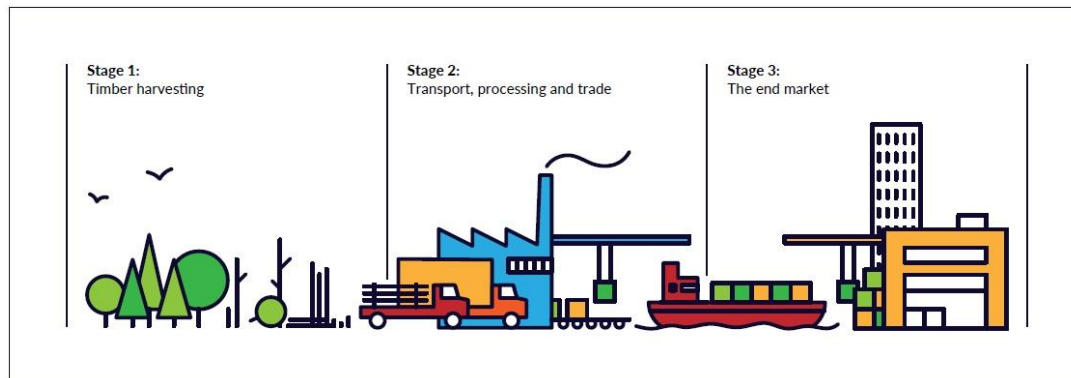
## Assistance

1. Discrete pieces of assistance with specific elements (circa 10 in year 1)
2. In-depth joint investigative work (1 per year)

### EG:

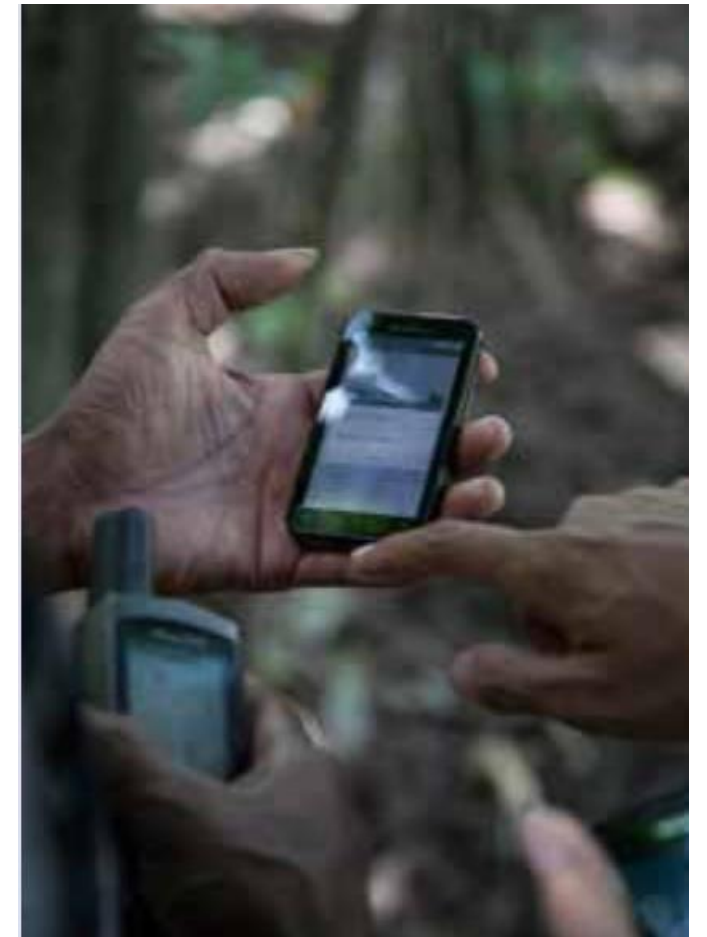
- Strategic advice
- Help with accessing/processing trade data
- Help access/process shipment records
- Satellite image sourcing and analysis
- Making connections with US/EU enforcement

- Building on existing evidence
- Assistance with multiple elements
- Joint 'partnership'
- Including joint field work



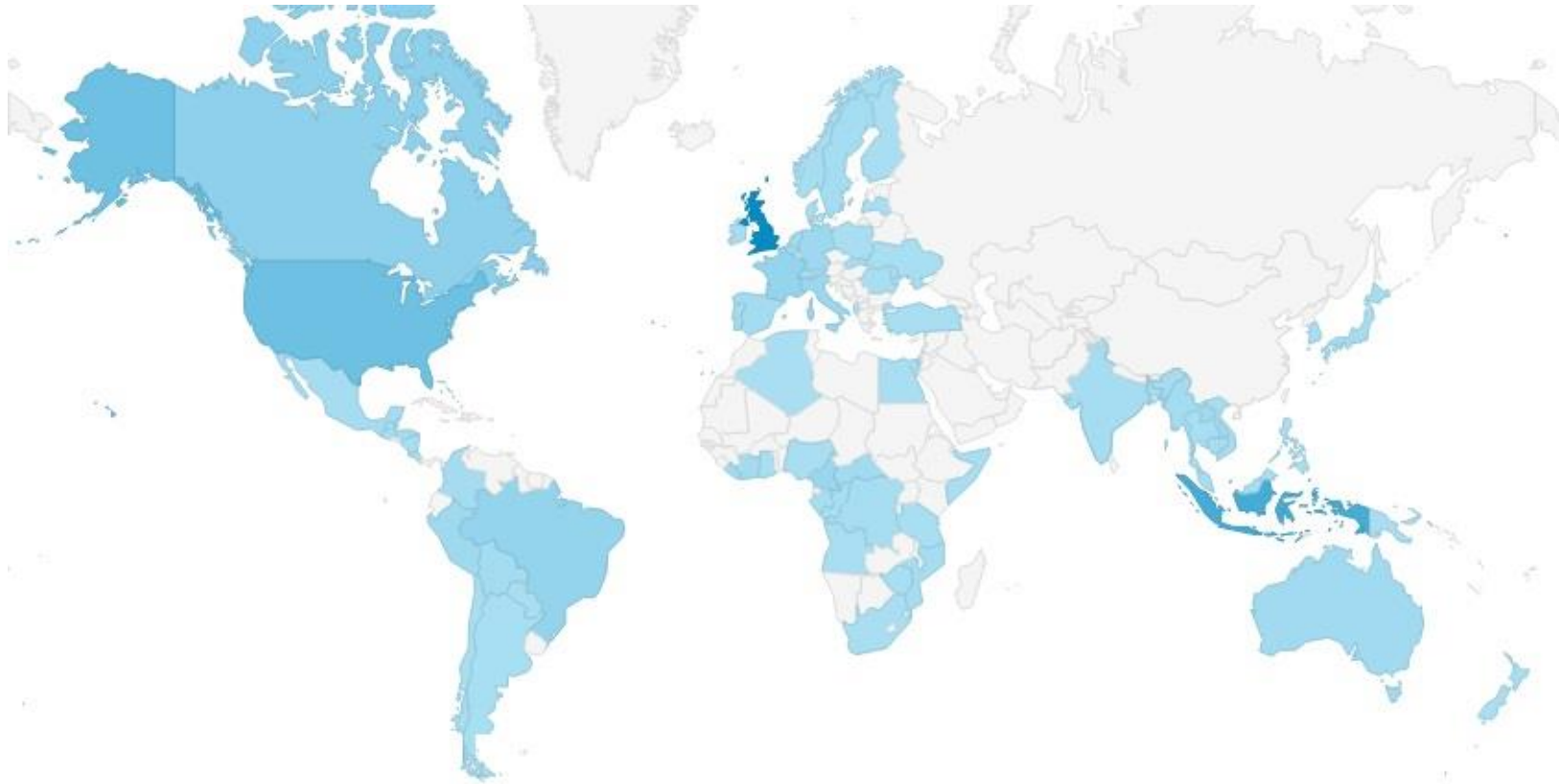
## Dissemination:

- Substantial effort made to reach as many relevant individuals and organisations as possible
- Try to reach beyond 'usual suspects'
- Extensive outreach, with dedicated co-ordinators for Latam and Francophone Africa
- Spreading word, encouraging and assisting with applications



# Timber Investigation Centre

## Helping Activists and Communities Investigate Illegal Logging & Trade



- Users in nearly every major tropical producer country of illegal wood
- Users in most EU MS importing significant amounts of high-risk wood
- Users spending substantial amounts of time on the site

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## Applications

- 15 applications to-date, inc from:
  - **SE Asia:** Indonesia
  - **Africa:** Congo, Cameroon, DRC, CAR, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia
  - **Latam:** Brazil, Honduras
- Less existing case evidence on which to build than hoped or expected
- Lots of broad, generic requests for assistance and training
- Many groups need funding as much as technical assistance
- Though wasn't initially planned, are providing **micro-grant assistance** along with technical advice
- Nothing yet ready to hand over to authorities

## Parallel Research & Activities

- TIC research is 'client led'
- Also conducting **own research**, looking for possible new cases EUTR/Lacey
- **Global scope**, cast net very wide and gradually focusing down
- Looking for 'low-hanging fruit', less-well documented countries/products
- Different approach to that of other orgs (e.g. EIA, GP, GW) – **flexible, follow evidence**
- Working both:
  - **from source** (e.g. IL case in source ctry) and
  - **from destination** (e.g. high-risk product on sale in dest ctry)
- Network with relevant enforcement agencies in EU/US

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## Lesson of interest to EUTR CAs: Shipment records

- Databases of individual shipments, based on bills of lading / ship manifests
- Give identities of supplier and buyer, product description, etc.
- Subscription-based, numerous commercial suppliers
- PIERS – US imports – critical tool in all Lacey cases pursued to-date
- **No equivalent for imports into EU** – potential major problem
- Alternative methods for making supply chain connections are very resource intensive
- **Partial solution:** newly available databases for source country exports



## Shipper & Consignee

- Russia
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Ukraine
- Colombia
- Bolivia
- Mexico
- Ecuador
- Vietnam
- Paraguay

## Shipper only

- Peru
- Philippines
- Argentina
- Chile
- Uruguay
- Panama

## Shipper consolidated

- China

## How can we help with EUTR implementation / enforcement?

**Cases:** Bring actionable evidence to CAs, in useable form

**BUT ALSO** (and perhaps more importantly):

- Provide starting points on which CAs can build
- Help influence enforcement priorities (e.g. companies, source countries, products)
- Demonstrate foreknowledge
- Encourage voluntary improvements in compliance by private sector

## How can we help with EUTR implementation / enforcement?

### **TWO-WAY STREET**

- Authorities can come to us for assistance
- Our model more conducive to this than that of others (EIA, GP, GW)

### **EXAMPLES**

- Helping intermediate with NGOs in source countries providing evidence
- Providing access to shipment record databases
- Providing advice in interpreting evidence obtained/submitted
- Help in obtaining information from source countries





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**Let's aim to beat this rather old record!**



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**Thank-you / Merci / Etc**

**samlawson [at] earthsight.org.uk**

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