# EGILAT’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022

1. **Introduction**

The Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) was established in 2011 in response to statements, decisions, and priorities of Leaders and Ministers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The 21 APEC economies account for 2.19 billion hectares of forest cover over 50 percent of the world’s forests. APEC economies also engage in a significant amount of trade in forest products, representing approximately 80 per cent of the international trade in such products.

APEC is the premier Asia Pacific economic forum. Our primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region.

We are united in our drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favourable and sustainable business environment.

Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.

It is recognised that many APEC economies continue to face significant challenges from illegal logging[[1]](#footnote-1), and associated trade.

EGILAT’s Terms of Reference provides that the group’s overall goal is to “enhance the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat[[2]](#footnote-2) illegal logging and associated trade, promote the trade in legally harvested forest products and support capacity building activities in member economies.

The EGILAT Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022 is intended to guide its work over the next five years. It takes into account the work previously undertaken by the group as part of the EGILAT Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2013-2017, including the information and views exchanged in EGILAT Meetings and associated events held during this period.

During the period of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-22, EGILAT will continue to focus its efforts on combating illegal logging and associated trade within the APEC region and promoting the trade in legal forest products. This work will be in line with the principles of EGILAT’s Terms of Reference, the relevant Statements, decisions, and priorities of APEC Leaders’ and Ministers’ directives, APEC’s Strategic Planning-Process Guide for Working Groups, and the APEC Strategic Planning Checklist.

1. **Vision Statement**

EGILAT seeks to enhance the efforts of its member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote the trade in legally harvested forest products including through capacity building activities in member economies, according to the EGILAT´s Terms of Reference, and thereby contribute to APEC’s primary goal to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region, including APEC Leaders aspirational goal to increase forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares by 2020.

1. **Mission Statement**

EGILAT’s mission is to foster sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing the efforts of member economies to take concrete steps to combat illegal logging and associated trade, promote the trade in legally harvested forest products and support capacity building activities in member economies.

1. **Critical Success Factors 2018-2022**

EGILAT’s ability to achieve its mission established in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2018-2022, depends on the following factors:

* Facilitating and strengthening cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade;
* The active participation of trade, forestry and other relevant officials of the APEC member economies in EGILAT’s work;
* Identifying capacity building needs and finding necessary resources to effectively implement actions for this purpose;
* Increasing the level of knowledge of APEC member economies on the scale and nature of illegal logging and its associated trade within the APEC region, and the benefits of the trade in legally harvested forest products;
* The willingness and commitment of APEC member economies to take actions to address identified problems;
* Engaging with relevant APEC fora whose work interacts with and complements EGILAT’s objectives;
* Engaging and encouraging the active participation of industry, civil society, and relevant international and regional organisations in EGILAT meetings and other events to raise awareness of, and contribute, to EGILAT’s activities;
* Facilitating and strengthening law enforcement cooperation and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, consistent with domestic law and in accordance with applicable international agreements;
* Sharing of information regarding policies, laws, and regulations in APEC economies to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products;
* Collaborating with international and regional forestry organizations working on sustainable forest management and rehabilitation, where appropriate, and endeavouring to ensure that EGILAT’s activities complement and do not duplicate activities being carried out in those organizations;
* The support of APEC, through its funding initiatives and the work of the Secretariat.

1. **Objectives and Key Performance Indicators 2018-2022**

| **Objective** | | **Key Performance Indicators** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| i | Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products; | * Member economies actively participate in EGILAT’s work program. This participation will include, but not be limited to, consistent representation at meetings and active inter-sessional work and information exchange; * Member economies regularly present and exchange information in EGILAT meetings on their experiences (including any challenges and successes) in combating illegal logging and its associated trade, and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products; * EGILAT collaborates with relevant APEC Working Groups or fora[[3]](#footnote-3), and other international and regional organizations, to address important cross cutting issues, including but not limited to, law enforcement cooperation, customs procedures, role of SMEs, data sharing and use of technology[[4]](#footnote-4)sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; * Member economies compile the information described in the EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance Template in accordance with the APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, and effectively disseminate the information, including through publishing it on a public APEC website. |
| ii | Exchange information and increase knowledge on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products,including:   * Developments in laws, regulations and other measures * New technologies; * Data and other information on production, processing, exports, imports and consumption of forest products; | * Member economies exchange information, views, experiences and analysis on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products; * Member economies share information on the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and other measures in their economies relevant to illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products; * Representatives of non-member economies, international organisations, regional organisations, civil society and industry attend EGILAT meetings, workshops or other events, as appropriate, to share information; * EGILAT is seen by member economies and other APEC fora as an important/effective forum for sharing experiences and lesson learned on the implementation of policies, laws, regulations and other measures to combat illegal logging and its associated trade and to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products in the region; * Projects are developed around priority knowledge sharing topics and the appropriate vehicle to share the resultant information is considered (e.g. joint research projects, pilots, policy briefs, case studies, dialogues, etc.); * New information, including research and analysis, is incorporated and informs EGILAT’ work. |
| iii | Identify capacity needs of APEC economies and develop targeted capacity building assistance to address the needs of those economies to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote the trade in legally harvested forest products. | * Capacity building needs are regularly identified through an annual survey or a dedicated portion of EGILAT meetings; * Member economies discuss and develop project proposals designed to address capacity building needs or identify other appropriate vehicles for capacity building such as inviting speakers to EGILAT meetings; * Resources are secured to implement projects that will help build capacity, both within member economies and at a regional level, to combat illegal logging and associated trade; * Member economies make effective use of project resources to enhance capacity to combat illegal logging and its associated trade and to promote the trade in legally harvested forest products. |
| iv | Facilitate and increase law enforcement cooperation, and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade, consistent with domestic legislations of each economy and in accordance with applicable international agreements. | * Relevant international and domestic law enforcement agencies are aware of and participate in EGILAT meetings and activities. This will include, but will not be limited to:   > sessions focussed on facilitating law enforcement cooperation and sharing of information related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, and  > effective collaboration between law enforcement and customs officials with respect to transnational shipments of illegally harvested forest product, and traceability systems for forest products;   * Effective working relationships are developed with other APEC working groups, such as but not limited to the SCCP and the ACTWG, and relevant law enforcement groups such as, but not limited to, the Interpol Forestry Crime Working Group, Interpol Project LEAF and the Timber Regulation Enforcement Exchange (TREE) Workshops; * Opportunities to productively expand cooperation with those groups and others are explored as appropriate. |
| v | Collaborate with regional and international organizations involved in promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; | * EGILAT is aware of the strategic objectives and work programmes of relevant regional and international organisations and actively engages where appropriate; * EGILAT activities contribute to APEC’s primary goal to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the region and contribute to the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal; * EGILAT activities complement any initiatives undertaken by relevant regional and international organisations that are designed to promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; * EGILAT members participate in other international and regional meetings and activities that consider illegal logging and its associated trade and the promotion of the trade in legally harvested forest products; * Representatives of relevant regional and international organizations are invited to attend EGILAT meetings and other events to share information; * Regional and international organisations recognize the work of EGILAT and seek to engage with EGILAT on issues of common interest. * Working with other APEC working groups to explore opportunities to expand cooperation, as appropriate. |
| vi | Collaborate with and encourage the active participation of industry and civil society to raise awareness and contribute to domestic and regional efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legally harvested forest products; | * EGILAT acknowledges the contribution of industry and civil society in combatting illegal logging and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products and identifies relevant entities to support the work of EGILAT; * Representatives of industry and civil society attend EGILAT meetings and events to share information and experiences in combatting illegal logging and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products, and, where relevant, actively participate in EGILAT projects; * Member economies develop an increased awareness of the risk factors, scale and scope of illegal logging and associated trade within the APEC region; * Domestic and regional efforts on these issues are informed by EGILAT and its collaboration with industry and civil society partners; * EGILAT addresses needs of SMEs in successfully trading in legal forest products through workshops and discussions in EGILAT meetings. |

1. **Implementation Schedule**

The Implementation Schedule is updated annually to reflect EGILAT’s Annual Work Plan. The EGILAT Annual Work Plan for 2018 is attached in Appendix 1.

| **Objective** | | **Actions/ Activities (to be annually updated)** | **Timing** | **Lead(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| i Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products; | | EGILAT Meetings | Twice a year | All member economies.  Other organisations (by invitation) |
| Sharing and exchange information intersessionally | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Report back on EGILAT meetings and events to Member economies | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Support APEC Ministers Responsible for Forestry Meeting(s), when held | TBD | All member economies |
| Compile the information described in the Timber Legality Guidance Template and publish it on the APEC website | By end of 2018 | All member economies |
| Update (as required) the information described in the Timber Legality Guidance Templates | 2019-2022 | All member economies |
| Collaborate with other APEC working groups | Ongoing | All Member economies |
| Share information on the development and implementation of relevant laws, regulations, and measures | Ongoing | All member economies |
| ii | Exchange information and increase knowledge on regulatory and technical matters related to combating illegal logging and its associated trade and promoting the trade in legally harvested forest products | Dialogue on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) best practices to promote legal trade of forest products | Upon the funding approval | Papua New Guinea |
| Workshop to increase knowledge on technical matters related to preventing and combating illegal logging and associated trade | Upon the funding approval | Chile |
| iii | Identify capacity needs of APEC economies and develop targeted capacity building assistance to address the needs of those economies; | Coordinate within APEC and with other relevant regional and international bodies, and among EGILAT members to discuss appropriate vehicles for addressing capacity building needs | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Conduct a survey, or dedicate a portion of each EGILAT meeting, to identify the capacity building needs of economies | Annually | All relevant member economies |
| iv | Facilitate and strengthen law enforcement cooperation, and information sharing related to combating illegal logging and associated trade, consistent with domestic legislation of each economy and in accordance with applicable international agreements | Compile and share the Law Enforcement Points of Contact information provided by economies who voluntarily choose to participate in this effort by posting on ACS for use as a resource for law enforcement cooperation among APEC economies, consistent with domestic law and in accordance with applicable international agreements. | 2018 | United States |
| Enhance participation of representatives | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Representatives of relevant law enforcement organisations are invited to participate in EGILAT meetings and activities | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Key outcomes or documents from EGILAT are circulated to relevant law enforcement organisations to inform them of EGILAT’s strategic objectives and work programmes. | Ongoing | All member economies |
| v | Collaborate with regional and international organizations involved in promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation; | Engage with relevant regional and international organisations to identify potential areas of collaboration | Ongoing | All member economies |
| Engage with relevant regional and international organizations in progress toward the APEC’s forest cover goal; | Ongoing | All member economies |
|  | Invite representatives of relevant regional and international organisations to participate in EGILAT meetings and other activities | Ongoing | All member economies |
| vi | Collaborate with and encourage the active participation of industry and civil society to raise awareness and contribute to domestic or regional efforts to combat illegal logging and promoting trade of legally harvested forest products. | Engage industry and civil society to raise awareness of illegal logging and promote support for the trade of legally harvested forest products | Ongoing | All member economies |
|  |  | Invite representatives of industry and civil society to participate in EGILAT meetings and other activities. | Ongoing | All member economies |

1. In 2015, EGILAT members agreed in the “APEC Common Understanding of the Scope of Illegal Logging and Associated Trade” that ‘illegal logging’ refers to “*the harvesting, processing, transporting or trading of timber or wood products in contravention of the relevant domestic laws or regulations of the economy of harvest, where applicable*”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For purposes of this strategic plan, the term “combat” also includes strategies and activities to prevent illegal logging and associated trade which may be included in the annual work plan of EGILAT. In considering what activities are included within the scope, consideration should be given to the Term of Reference of EGILAT and Leaders’ and Ministers’ directives. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Other APEC groups that may be relevant to the work of EGILAT include, but are not limited to, the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG), the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and the Transportation Working Group (TWG). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)