



TIMBERLEX

THE ONLINE PORTAL FOR FOREST-RELATED LEGISLATION
AND TIMBER LEGALITY

BACKGROUND

Illegal logging undermines sustainable forest management and impairs poverty alleviation, food security and climate change mitigation. As more timber producing and consuming countries enact requirements related to legal production and trade of timber, making information on national legislation related to forest management, production and associated trade easily available will facilitate legality verification and due diligence efforts worldwide.

In this context, the TimberLex database was established as an open online resource to provide access to accurate and up-to-date information on legislation relating to forest management, timber production and trade from major timber-trading countries.

Reinforcing knowledge and understanding of national legal frameworks governing forestry and timber supply chains, the database enables more effective law enforcement and facilitates national and international trade in legal timber. TimberLex provides a new resource, contributing to the global efforts to increase legal and sustainable production, management and trade in forest products.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- facilitate access to legal frameworks governing forestry and timber production and trade;
- support timber-producing countries to strengthen and enforce their legal frameworks;
- assist timber traders to meet legality requirements in timber-importing countries.

TARGET USERS

The database will benefit a variety of stakeholders:

- legislators, policymakers, forestry departments and law enforcement officers who are mandated to play a role along the timber value chain;
- private sector producers, processors and traders in timber producing and consuming countries;
- civil society and non-governmental organizations who will benefit from enhanced knowledge and capacity around timber-related legislation.



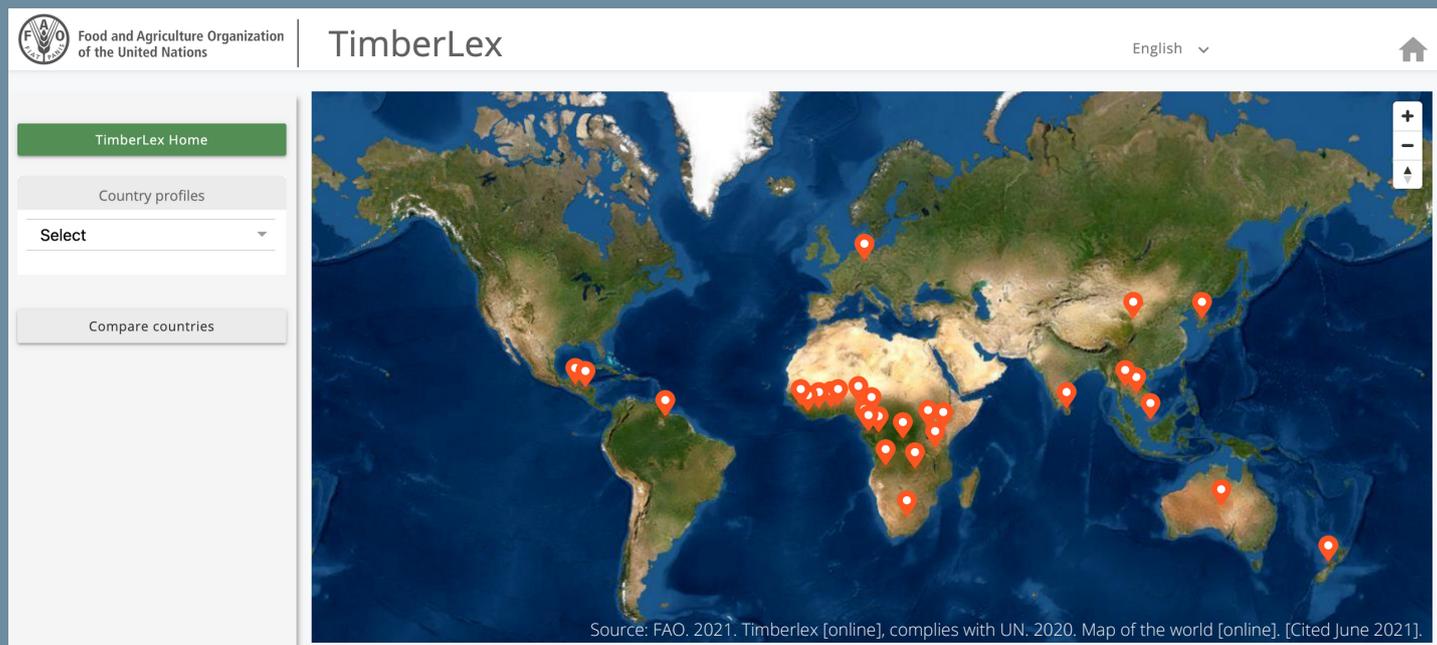
INNOVATIVE APPROACH

The portal:

- points users to specific measures within legal texts;
- allows easy and direct comparison between legal frameworks;
- creates a repository of additional resources on forestry.

STRUCTURE

TimberLex is a subset of FAOLEX - the world's largest electronic collection of national laws and regulations on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources.



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TimberLex country profiles are structured around a set of guiding legal elements (GLEs) for forest management, timber production and trade, developed by FAO through participative consultation, based on international best practices. The GLEs are agreed common elements to create frameworks for timber legality and are divided in four clusters encompassing critical stages of the timber value chain:



Land tenure and forest management



Timber harvesting activities



Processing, transport and trade



Taxes and fees

Country pages include thematic sections with verbatim citations of legal measures catalogued according to the applicable GLEs. This ensures quick and neutral access to information. The compare function, based on country names and GLEs, provides a user-friendly way of consulting relevant legislation.



COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

By facilitating wider and easier access to legal information on timber, TimberLex contributes to:

- clarifying legal frameworks for sustainable forest management, production and trade;
- improving forest governance;
- curbing illegal deforestation and associated forest degradation;
- promoting global production and trade in legal timber.



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MAFF
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