

## RUSSIA

<b>Assignment Name:</b> Validation of Legal Timber Programme (VLTP)		<b>Country:</b> Russian Federation
<b>Location within Country:</b> Khabarovsk Region (Russian Far-East) and neighbouring regions		<b>Professional Staff Provided by SGS (profiles):</b> Programme Director
<b>Name of Clients / Customers:</b> Khabarovsk Region Government (Min. of Natural Resources, Min. of Forest Industry) / private sector forest & timber industry cies.		<b>Nº of Staff:</b> 4 full time / part time employees
<b>Address:</b> Khabarovsk, Russian Federation		<b>Duration of Assignment:</b> N/A
<b>Start Date (Month/Year):</b> April 2006	<b>Completion Date (Month/Year):</b> on going	<b>Approx. Value of Services (in Current US\$):</b> N/A
<b>Names of Associated Consultants, If Any:</b> Russian Far-East 'Forest Certification Centre' (FCC), Khabarovsk		<b>Professional Staff Provided by Associated Consultants</b> <b>FCC:</b> Programme Administrator, IT Manager, VLTP Auditors
<b>Names of Senior Staff Involved and Functions Performed:</b> Andrey Zakharenkov, Programme Director		
<b>Narrative Description of Project:</b> <p>The 'Validation of Legal Timber Programme' (VLTP), managed by SGS in partnership with the Far Eastern Forest Certification Center is intended for credible, independent verification of legal compliance by timber producers and legal origin of timber products. The VLTP Statements and on-product Labels will provide internationally-recognized evidence that a company produces and sells 'Legality Verified Timber' products.</p> <p>The VLTP is an initiative of the regional Government. The Khabarovsk Region is the first region in Russia in implementing such a program. It combines the efforts of government departments, responsible forest companies, local communities, civil society (all represented in the VLTP Operation Council) and conscious citizens to tackle illegal logging, the trade in illegal timber products, and corruption in the forest sector.</p> <p>The VLTP Standard provides a robust framework for assessing the source, ownership and conformity of forest/ timber products and the activities of production, transport, processing and distribution of these products. It also includes requirements for the traceability of the products from forest to market. The concept of legality formed by the VLTP Standard focuses on essential and auditable requirements. It is based on generic and international legality principles and incorporates locally-relevant criteria and indicators that are anchored in specified federal and regional laws and regulations.</p> <p>Verification of legality in the framework of the VLT Programme comprises several stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first, Verification of Legal Origin (VLO) demonstrates that the logs and timber products have been legally sourced, are legally owned, and can be traced "from stump to customer";</li> <li>• second, Verification of Legal Compliance (VLC) demonstrates that logs and timber products have, in a wider sense, been legally produced.</li> </ul> <p>The verification process combines regular audits of a company's timber production and traceability system, continuous data monitoring, and unannounced inspections at production sites. Products that have been successfully verified under both VLO and VLC are considered as fully verified 'legal' timber products.</p>		
<b>Description of Actual Services Provided by SGS's Staff:</b> <p>SGS entered into an agreement with the Khabarovsk Region Government to implement a voluntary legality verification scheme for timber, which has encompassed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing an independent VLTP Agency, including recruiting and training staff and auditors</li> <li>• assisting with the establishment of the VLTP Operation Council (OC)</li> <li>• developing the VLTP Standard for validation by the OC, and developing the VLTP Standard Operating Procedures, forms and systems</li> <li>• implementing, promoting, offering and delivering an effective VLTP service.</li> </ul>		