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CONTEXT OF TIMBER TRADE

- Colombia has a rich and largely unexploited forest resource with total natural forested area of 61,246,659 ha.
- 27,068,375 ha (39%) of natural forests are titled to Indigenous peoples (*resguardos indígenas*) located in the wider Amazon region, 4,334,675 ha (6.2%) to Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific region, and 313 435 ha (0.5%) to farmer areas.
- 53.7% of the continental territory is covered by natural forests.
- The various moist forest types of the Amazon cover about 90% of Colombia's Amazonian territory. The main timber species are *Couma macrocarpa*, *Virola* spp., *Jacaranda copaia* and *Cedrela odorata*.
- The Colombian State owns only 22% of the country's forests areas; the vast majority are owned by local and indigenous communities.
- Colombia has very few forest plantations, accounting for only 1% of the total forest area, while 85% are naturally regenerated. There are 354 000 ha of commercial forestry plantations.
- Between 1990 and 2010, Colombia lost 3.2% of its forest cover. FAO (2010) estimated the average annual rate of deforestation in the period 2000 - 2010 at about 101 000 ha (0.17%) per year.
- The main cause of deforestation is colonization, including through small-scale and medium-scale agriculture, which contributes to about 73% of deforestation.
- Other main drivers of deforestation are monocultures, settlement/displacement of populations, infrastructure, mining, removal of timber for sale or personal consumption (legal and illegal extraction) and fires.
- In 2006, the World Bank estimated that 42% of Colombian timber production was illegal.
- Colombia was one of 12 countries targeted in a crackdown by Interpol in early 2013 on the illegal timber trade in Central and South America.
- About 80% of timber used in the country in the domestic market derives from natural forest and 20% from plantations.
- The large majority of Colombian timber product exports consist of paper, which accounted for USD418 million (82%) of the USD512 million exported by the country in 2012.
- In 2013, the production volume of Colombian round wood amounted to 3,841,000 m³.
- Wood furniture is by far the most valuable exported solid timber product. Other key exported products are particle board, logs, mouldings, plywood, sawnwood, and joinery products.
- As of December 2013, there were 126,130,00 ha of Colombian forest FSC certified. These include seven FSC certificates and 31 chain of custody certificates.



Timber ready to be transported to the nearest port or sawmill. Timber harvested unsustainably is a great threat to tropical forests. Utría Sound, Colombia. Chocó Ecoregional Programme.



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MAJOR HARVESTED & TRADED SPECIES

Cumala	<i>Virola</i> spp.
Cativo	<i>Prioria copaifera</i>
Sajo	<i>Camposperma panamensis</i>
Abarco	<i>Cariniana pyriformis</i>
Cedro	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>
Cedro rosado	<i>Tabebuia serratifolia/T. rosea</i>
Sande/Huina	<i>Brosimum utile</i>
Andiroba	<i>Carapa guianensis</i>

PLANTATION SPECIES

Southern Blue Gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Rose Gum	<i>Eucalyptus urophylla</i>
Black Wattle	<i>Acacia mangium</i>
Beechwood	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>
Teak	<i>Tectona grandis</i>
Pine	<i>Pinus</i> spp.

SPECIES FROM NATURAL FORESTS (used in plantations)

Vara de Humo	<i>Cordia alliodora</i>
Ceiba tolúa	<i>Bombacopsis quinata</i>
Roble de Sabana	<i>Tabebuia rosea</i>
Aliso	<i>Alnus acuminata</i>
Arrayán	<i>Lafoesia speciosa</i>
Colombian Oak	<i>Quercus humboldtii</i>

EXPORT MARKETS – KEY FACTS

CITES Appendix II-listed tree species:

Brazilian rosewood *Aniba rosaeodora*
Big-leaf Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*
American Mahogany *Swietenia mahagoni*
Guaiacwood *Guaiacum officinale*
Aji *Caryocar costaricense*

CITES Appendix III-listed tree species:

Brazilian Cedarwood *Cedrela fissilis*
Spanish Cedar *Cedrela odorata*

At least 40 tree species in Colombia are threatened by over-exploitation, including:

Comino Crespo *Aniba perutilis*
Abarco *Cariniana pyriformis*
Carra *Huberodendron patinoi*
Chanó *Humiriastrum procerum*



Red Mangrove *Rhizophora mangle*, Chocó Department, Colombia

LEGAL TIMBER (legality framework)

National Forestry Development Plan, in Spanish

http://www.minambiente.gov.co//documentos/553_plan_nal_des_forestal.pdf

Certificate for Export of Processed Forest Products

<http://www.gobiernoenlinea.gov.co/tramite.aspx?tralD=4702>

Export Permit

<http://www.gobiernoenlinea.gov.co/web/guest/home/-/government-services/10445/maximized>



Tropical lowland moist forest, La Planada Nature Reserve, Colombia

MAJOR FOREST GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Lack of centralized control

Issuance of harvesting permits is controlled by local government (autonomous regional environmental authorities) and there is not a centralized timber control and surveillance system by the central government.

Law enforcement and transparency

There is a lack of forest law enforcement and transparency in the application of laws that deal with forest management. Because of armed conflict, there is little long-term management of control over resources.

No well-developed policies and standards

No specific standards have been established for large-scale production forestry and there are no concession policies.

Building capacities on forest governance

The strengthening of capacities in forestry and forest governance are essential in maintaining sustainable use of the forest and resulting benefits. Capacities should be built in related sectors as well as the forestry sector.

The establishment of a forests sector culture

Forests should be valued for their intrinsic value as well as their benefits. Undervalued timber affects markets as well as the forest and the communities that inhabited them. A strong forest sector culture contributes to the creation of incentives for good forest management, helping to regulate timber markets and strengthen forest governance.





FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Key government authorities

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<https://www.minagricultura.gov.co/Paginas/inicio.aspx>
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
<https://www.minambiente.gov.co/index.php>
- National Corporation for Forestry Research and Development (CONIF)
<http://conif.org>

Non-governmental organizations

- WWF Colombia
<http://www.wwf.org.co>
- Fundacion Natura
<http://www.natura.org.co>
- Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resource Research Institute
<http://www.humboldt.org.co>
- Tropenbos International Colombia
http://www.tropenbos.org/country_programmes/colombia/publications?page=2
- The Amazon Institute of Scientific Research (Sinchi)
<http://www.sinchi.org.co>
- Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)
www.ideam.gov.co
- Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific
<http://www.iiap.org.co>
- The Nature Conservancy
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/southamerica/colombia/index.htm>
- Conservation International
<http://www.conservation.org/where/pages/amazonia.aspx>



Credit: © WWF-Canon / Diego M. Garcés

Traditional extraction of wood in Chocó Department, Colombia

RELEVANT REPORTS & WEBSITES

- Action Plan for Commercial Reforestation
<https://vuf.minagricultura.gov.co/Documents/Informaci%C3%B3n%20Forestal/Plan%20de%20Acci%C3%B3n%20Reforestaci%C3%B3n%20Comercial.pdf>
- Análisis de Sinergias entre la Aplicación de las Leyes, la Gobernanza y el Comercio Forestal e Iniciativas Afines en Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú
http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic_pub_forestry29.pdf
- Aportes a la Gobernanza Forestal
<http://www.wwf.org.co/?230230/Aportes-a-la-Gobernanza-Forestal>
- CITES Appendices
<http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>
- El Subportal de Ecosistemas de Bosques
https://www.siac.gov.co/Subportal_Ecosistemas_Bosque/Introduccion_Subp_Ecosistemas_Bosque.aspx
- Evaluation and Scoping of EU Timber Importers from South America, TRAFFIC
http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic_pub_forestry27.pdf



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Bromelia Bromeliaceae, Chocó Department, Colombia





RELEVANT REPORTS & WEBSITES

- **FSC Colombia**
<http://www.fsc-colombia.org>
- **GFTN**
<http://gftn.panda.org>
- **Logging Permits**
<http://www.gobiernoenlinea.gov.co/web/guest/home/-/government-services/4546/maximized>
- **Pacto Intersectorial por la Madera Legal en Colombia**
http://www.ica.gov.co/Areas/Agricola/ServiciosPacto-Interseccional-de-Madera/Pacto-Madera/PACTO_INTERSECTORIAL_MADERALEGAL.aspx
- **Salvoconducto Único Nacional de Biodiversidad Biológica**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m583TrdMpQs&feature=youtu.be>
- **Status of Tropical Forest Management, ITTO 2011**
http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2660&no=0&disp=inline
- **Sector Forestal en Colombia**
http://www.inviertaencolombia.com.co/Adjuntos/Perfil_Forestal_2012.pdf
- **Tendencias de la Gobernanza Forestal en Colombia, Ecuador y Perú**
<http://flegt.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Gob-Forestal-Co-Ec-Pe-Junio20141.pdf>
- **The National Biodiversity Policy**
http://www.minambiente.gov.co/documentos/politica_nacional-biodiversidad.pdf
- **TRAFFIC**
<http://www.traffic.org>
- **2006 General Forest Law**
http://www.secretariasenado.gov.co/senado/basedoc/ley_1021_2006.html

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TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS

- **National Federation of Wood Industry (FEDEMADERAS)**
<http://fedemaderas.org.co/certificacion-forestal-voluntaria>
- **Forestry Chains in Colombia**
<http://maderas.ut.edu.co>
- **Spanish Association of Commerce and Wood Industry (AEIM)**
<http://www.maderalegal.info/fichas>



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Andiroba *Carapa guianensis*

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