

cydc2019 | APEC





Director's Letter

Dear delegates,

Welcome to CYDC Model United Nations 2019 and APEC. My name is Nick Liu and I will be the Director of the APEC this year. I am a 10th grader at Fraser Heights Secondary and have been an active part of the MUN scene since grade 9. MUN to me is a place to find the birth of new ideas and the passionate but sometimes intense clash of viewpoints. Due to MUN's interactive environment, at each conference delegates are pushed to explore an entire new set of world viewpoints and pushes people not only as a person, but as a citizen of the global community. I hope at this iteration of iteration of CYDCMUN, your love for debate and diplomacy grows exponentially.

Along with myself are your two fabulous dias members: Jimmy Ma, a grade 11 student at Port Moody Secondary and Joseph Lim, a grade 10 student at Pacific Academy. I hope that we may be at your side at all times and create an extraordinary experience.

Over the course of the conference, delegates in APEC will discuss 1 sole topic, the ramifications of sustainable forestry. This backgrounder will provide you with a convenient overview of the topic and supply some direction for your research. Note that to be eligible for an award, delegates must submit a position paper.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that delegates will face difficult challenges but only through a high level of professionalism and passion can we truly come out with a resolution. Ultimately, the Dais team wishes you good luck on your research and journey on the topic. Feel free to reach out to me at apec@cydcmun.org for further questions.

Best Regards,
Nick Liu
Director of APEC
CYDCMUN 2019



Committee Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an intergovernmental forum focused on promoting free trade in the Asian-Pacific Region. Ultimately, decisions from APEC translates to real world changes in large industrial sectors. APEC members have a combined Gross Domestic Product of over \$16 trillion and carry out 42% of world trade and thus have much power on the international stage¹.

APEC was started in 1989 and now has grown to have 21 countries including the United States and China, both global economic powerhouses. The goal of APEC is to constantly strive to reach the Bogor Goal, which is a “the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific.”² Thus, APEC primarily focuses on 3 pillar of the future, the first one being Trade and Investment Liberalization.³ This means that APEC members voluntarily agree to liberalize in a certain area of investment or trade. Secondly, APEC strives to uphold their second pillar, Trade Facilitation. Empirically, this pillar has looked at the rewiring of trade agreements to make creating businesses in certain areas less costly and more accessible. The third pillar would be the most relevant in the current status quo, which is Economic and Technical Cooperation. Otherwise known as “Ecotech”, this sector looks at helping foster human capital, developing technologies for the future and promoting environmental and sustainable growth.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation strives to be solely an economic cooperation as the name suggest, however in recent years, they have seen many political issues, such as the rise of terrorism or global warming. Throughout the 30 years of economic development, APEC has notably been able to increase global trade by 5.6 times the speed of other nations and lowered tariffs from 17% to only 5%.⁴ Additionally, APEC has generally made it easier for business in the Asian-Pacific region exponentially easier and more efficient.

¹ https://www.ncapec.org/docs/what_is_aphec.pdf

² <https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC/Fact-Sheets/Bogor-Goals>

³ https://www.ncapec.org/docs/what_is_aphec.pdf

⁴ <https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC/Achievements-and-Benefits>



Even though APEC cannot force its member countries to directly change regulations, member states often are inclined to do so voluntarily due to the self-beneficial nature of these trade agreements. Thus all moves in APEC will be felt by the world in a butterfly effect.



Topic Introduction

George Bernard Shaw once said that “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”⁵ As the environmental impact of human nature become more and more clear, it becomes imperative for there to be a shift in mindset in fear of increasing natural disasters. It is estimated that by 2100, 75% of the human population will be face deadly heat waves resulting in diseases and death.⁶ With impending doom at our doorstep, lack of change will only decrease the chances of the human race to strive further. In general, illegal logging pertains to when timber is harvested or processed in violation of national or international laws.

The 21 member states of APEC account for 2.19 billion hectares of forest land cover over 50% of the world’s forests. Additionally, APEC economies also engage in a significant amount of trade in forest products.⁷ Thus the impacts of such a resolution would be able to resonate throughout the global community and must be decided closely and precisely. Illegal forestry is rampant in areas such as Malaysia, where 40-61% of forestry is considered to be illegal and unregulated.⁸ The problem with illegal forestry is that it goes on with practices that are not safe for the environment and are unregulated. This means that a huge amount of carbon and other unhealthy gases are released into the atmosphere.

As Chatham puts it, “ Illegal logging perpetuates corruption, undermines livelihoods, fuels social conflict, deprives governments of revenue and erodes countries’ natural resource bases.”⁹ The impacts of illegal forestry affect not just the environment, but the loss of global economic capital through the black market and inefficient allocation of resources. A study published in 2004 estimated that illegal products were depressing world prices by between 7% and 16%.¹⁰ Due to the tipping point of the

⁵ <https://earth911.com/inspire/earth-day-23-quotes/>

⁶ <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/heatwaves-climate-change-global-warming/>

⁷ <https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Illegal-Logging-and-Associated-Trade>

⁸ <https://www.illegal-logging.info/topics/scale-illegal-logging%20>

⁹ <https://indicators.chathamhouse.org/>

¹⁰ <https://www.illegal-logging.info/topics/major-impacts>



environment being dangerously close, it becomes necessary for us to address it or face dire consequences.

These damages are perpetuated by the lack of public awareness in this topic, causing private corporations to reap the rewards of destroying our world. Whereas governments and states are unable to collect taxes and regulate the rate in which trees are quickly being chopped down. Illegal logging has been one of the main factors for the quick change in climate and must be addressed.



Timeline

1938 - First recorded record of Climate change, discovered by Guy Callendar who create the first climate change model to estimate the effects of greenhouse gases. He came to the surprising conclusion that carbon gases were able to increase global temperatures.

November 1989 - APEC was founded to facilitate economic cooperation and trade on the Asia-Pacific stage. It's key vision was to reach the Bogor goals.



2001 - Act on Promoting Green Purchasing, a Japanese government procedural policy that prioritized legal and sustainable forestry. This policy sparked conversation about the climate and its implications on civilians.

May 18 2005 - UN forum discussion - The United Nations discussed sustainable forestry management in the Asia-Pacific region on the international stage. Potential solutions as well as current issues are spoken in an objective manner by the international community with many major powers addressing the issues.¹¹

May 22 2008 - Lacey Act amended, the Lacey Act was amended to expand horizons to include a broader range of plant products and made it against the law to import certain organisms. This was the first law to ban trade in certain wood-based products.

2011 - The creation of EGILAT - The Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade was created specifically to combat illegal logging on an international stage.

March 1 2012 - Asia Pulp and Paper Scandal, Greenpeace files an accusation towards APP in using an endangered hardwood called ramin and used it in paper mills. Ramin was essential in the habitats of rare Sumatran tigers, which experts estimate to only be 400 left in the world.

November 28 2012 - Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, an Australian governmental act that implemented methods to stop the illegal importation of lumber.

May 9 2014 - Creation of the Timber Legality Guidance Documents, These documents served as clarity to what businesses, corporations and companies could produce and manufacture legally.

February 25 2018 - Formulation of a 5-year strategic plan to promote the trade of legal forestry throughout the region, further perpetuating APEC goals of economic growth and sustained prosperity.

¹¹ un.org/press/en/2005/envdev856.doc.htm



Historical Analysis

In the past climate change has been heckled at and widely thought to be a myth. Only recently, people have started to take it seriously. Before legislation, illegal forestry was rampant in all countries. However, it never seemed to be an issue as the population was nothing compared to the status quo. Many native tribes used the forest peacefully and didn't hurt it much, thus not damaging the environment. It became necessary to implement legislation when the damages became procedural and industrialized as machines harvested much faster than the work of people. This legislation first came in small batches and wasn't very enforced, as governments thought it was not a big concern as they tended to supposedly bigger issues such as poverty. However, this changed when climate change started to have real implications in international relations and everyday citizens.

After some time, the governments weren't able to brush it off, so they decided to take action. APEC created EGILAT in 2011 for the specific purpose of counteracting illegal forestry to create sustainable development. This group immediately got to work and crafted the Timber Legality Guidance Documents in 2014. These documents were a clarification and transparency measure for businesses to follow. These guidelines, while clear and effective, were not attacking the root of the problem which were smugglers that understood the rules and were breaking them. Thus, EGILAT came back again with a 5 year strategic plan starting in 2018. The impacts of this plan have yet to be seen but are most likely filled with change. A main and crucial to note component is to "Strengthen policy dialogue on combating illegal logging and associated trade and promoting trade in legally harvested forest products".¹² This policy will increase the amount of global communication about illegal forestry but more crucially it will urge candidates in elections to cater towards a changing ideology of environmentalism.

As well as APEC, countries have individually changed their legislation. These nations have been pioneers in a sector of law not yet tread on. Japan was one of the first to implement policies regarding sustainable forestry and create a

¹²https://www.apec.org/-/media/Files/Groups/EGILAT/EGILAT18_sce1_007_EGILAT-strategic-plan-2018-2022.docx?la=en&hash=5B1D83B565482F7E24B1C199C40D44ABAB2224F9



lot of civilian conversation. However, one of the more major branches of individual legislation was the amendment of the Lacey Act in the United States of America. This was the first governmental law that completely banned the importation of certain wood products. As an impact of this amendment, other countries started to take illegal forestry more seriously.

Furthermore, these issues became more relevant as many countries realized that illegal forestry did not only exist on a small scale, but was structurally integrated into some of the biggest companies in the world. Greenpeace, an environmental NGO, filed a report on the illegal dealings of one of the biggest paper mills in Asia, the Asia Pulp and Paper Scandal for using ramin, a rare valuable tree. This scandal brought out public backlash, fighting to save the rare tigers that could only survive in such conditions, showing the power of the public to make social change. In general, these significant historical legislative changes often sparked much needed civilian word. Indeed, history tells us that these changes in legislation are effective, but have not caused enough impact. Thus, the increase in these same action may lead to more drastic change that would be much needed.

Current Situation

“One must address the root causes of a problem before they can seek out the solutions.”

Causes

In the current status quo, there are many structural causes of why people want to and are able to log illegally, one of these being rural poverty. In forest regions, often times there are communities that use the wood from the forest for everything. From food, fuel to building material, the forest typically takes a huge amount of these community's incomes and lives. Consequently, this has lead to whole lifestyles dependant on illegal forestry. Mostly consisting of indigenous communities, theses groups have relied on forestry before it was considered illegal to do so and thus some debate they have a right to do so.

Furthermore, a clear structural incentive for illegal logging is the lower prices of the black market. Hidden from taxes and government surveillance,



the black market serves a niche of buyers that want to have a high risk high reward venture. It is clear that illegal forestry can be cheaper because of the lack of laws and regulations. This low price incentivises even the most rule abiding countries to buy illegal wood in fear of being beat out in comparative advantage. Moreover, the skyrocketing demand of high value furniture and products made of these woods increase the demand of such products. This is further perpetuated by the increased dependency on charcoal. High density wood is often preferred to create high quality charcoal and thus drove up demand once again. High ranking officials in certain countries benefit individually as they have personally invested or started these companies. Thus, the selfish monetary gain drives up the corruption governments not to change much policies.

Finally, another cause of illegal forestry would be the lack of proper governance. Much of the land and forest do not have proper borders between the private and public sector and thus there is huge amounts of confusion. Additionally, weak institutions and low amounts of adequate law enforcement have contributed greatly to the legal loopholes that smugglers are able to travel through. Moreover, many of these countries have unclear and poor frameworks.

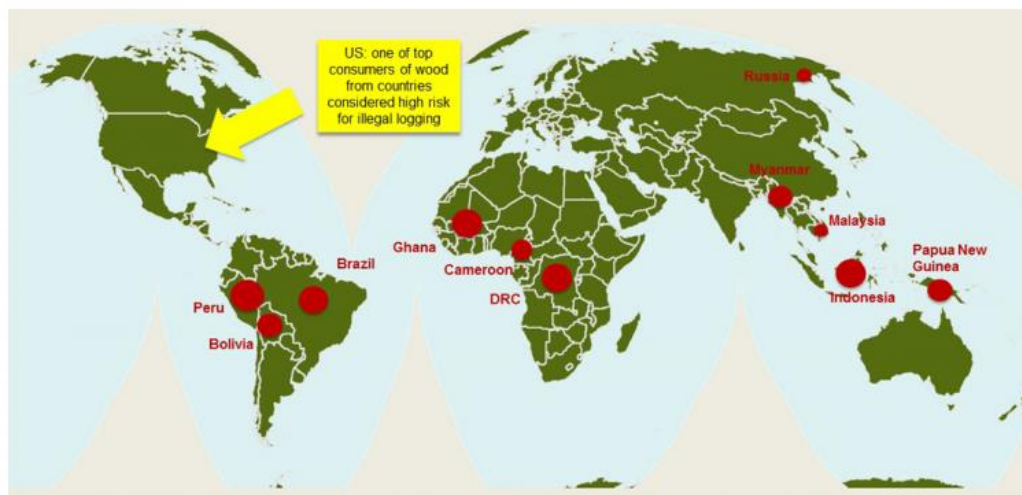
Furthermore, corruption and misinterpretation have constantly plagued many less developed countries.



MAP

ILLEGAL LOGGING

Countries with higher rates of illegal logging.



Impacts

The continuation of illegal forestry creates an ever-perpetuating line of horrible harms to the environmental, economic and political climate. A significant harm would be one of violation of human rights. In places such as Indonesia, many natives are forced into working with these illegal companies as their last ditch option. They still have to care for their kids and family and thus the last option for them is to go into these smuggling operations. Moreover, the employers can overwork and underpay them as they know that the natives have no other options. This eventually leads to many people getting starved and in rare cases dying. Illegal forestry has even got linked to the lack of doctor density as Indonesia having 10 doctors for every 100,000 people.¹³ The funds that were supposed to be for these programs have been cut and now line the fancy linen pockets of corrupt officials and illegal loggers

Furthermore, there is a clear environmental impact to illegal logging. As more land gets exposed to the sun and increased amounts of carbon fill the

¹³<https://www.hrw.org/report/2009/12/01/wild-money/human-rights-consequences-illegal-logging-and-corruption-indonesias>



sky, the dangers are clear. Illegal forestry is threatening some of the world's most endangered animals, especially primates. This is causing a decrease in biodiversity as many animals such as orangutans are unable to survive in these conditions. "Illegal logging in nine forest producer countries is estimated to have released 190 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in 2013".¹⁴ It is extremely important to care about the environment as it is the only place where humans can reside as of now.

However, arguably the more important impact would be to the global economy. Many believe that illegal forestry has stripped governments of taxes and lowered the drive for innovation. Illegal smugglers drive out legal competition through extremely low prices and reduce the need for innovation as the legal companies have to fund to do so. Furthermore, the low prices seem to lower prices and a study concluded that the global prices on wood products would have been lowered by up to 16% and a global loss of 15 billion USD.¹⁵ We are not only losing resources now, but reducing the fiscal and resource flexibility of the future. The increased loss of natural resources could be potential for huge economic problems in the future.

Current Activity

Currently, APEC is in the process of carrying out the multi-year strategic plan.¹⁶ This plan entails a 4 pillar approach to the problem. All the policies encourage have one major connection, which is international cooperation. APEC has set goals and progress indicators to understand the changing climate. The question still remains if these actions will be drastic enough to create sustainable change.

International Involvement

Nations of APEC have continuously held each other accountable for their actions. With the current rising worth of lumber, many countries are facing an increase in exports and logging. Although this is an ongoing problem, countries haven't properly fully addressed the issue and implemented strict laws to dissuade their citizens to participate in illegal logging. An example

¹⁴ <https://www.illegal-logging.info/topics/major-impacts>

¹⁵ <https://greentumble.com/the-negative-effects-of-illegal-logging/>

¹⁶ https://www.apec.org/-/media/Files/Groups/EGILAT/EGILAT18_sce1_007_EGILAT-strategic-plan-2018-2022.docx?la=en&hash=5B1D83B565482F7E24B1C199C40D44ABAB2224F9



of this are the recent protests of Papua New Guinea civil society groups on China's lumber imports. As Papua New Guinea's largest lumber importer, China has been criticized with selling illegal lumber products to Papua New Guinea and further influencing the citizens of Papua New Guinea themselves to participate in illegal logging. A formal letter had been addressed to China's president Xi Jinping, who seeks to act upon the creation issue by sparking China's "Belt and Road Initiative" to encourage eco-friendly industrial development.

Whenever a country is participating in actions deemed as unsustainable or illegal forestry, APEC forest ministers have taken action and urged governments to take a chance for the better. Within APEC, forest ministers are tasked with the important role of maintaining and improving the current conditions of nature and wildlife. Every two years, a meeting takes place where all forest ministers meet with a predetermined topic that is found to be relevant in the near future, and also to discuss other future plans. The most recent meeting, MMRF4 (Meeting of Ministers responsible for Forestry), had taken place in Seoul, South Korea in 2017 with the subject matter of: "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future". This meeting targeted increasing actions towards cooperation between nations to sustain existing forestry. Seoul's meeting was the fourth meeting, with previous meetings being held in Beijing (China), Cusco (Peru), and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).¹⁷

Outside of APEC, the international community has also been increasingly involved in improving future environmental plans. Many large-scale businesses have even partnered with the UN themselves. Recently, Hershey Co. has aid to partner with the UN in relying towards sustainability and gaining data as to how the environment is impacted through the process of cocoa manufacturing. More specifically, Hershey has partnered with the Ghana Forestry Commission to launch the Kakum Cocoa Agroforestry Program, a program that seeks to protect national parks and improve working conditions. Hershey's president, Michael Buck, has announced his intentions on sparking this change towards a sustainable future was due to his hopes of contributing to a world that was eco-friendly and supportive of life. He says: "Hershey has long demonstrated its belief that business has a responsibility to help protect our communities and the planet we all share.

¹⁷ https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Forestry/2017_forestry



Together, these strategic environmental policies and initiatives will further strengthen how Hershey operates, creating a positive social impact from farm to finished product.”

Many of the most effective changes in forestry are movements that have been started or supported by the government themselves. Countries that have independently sparked successful movements have been able to accomplish more as they have a thorough understanding of what specific actions need to be taken and what has been done in the past. The Borneo Initiative had shown this with the successes of a minor initiative growing to be as large to produce over two million hectares of forests across Indonesia. Guatemala also has many community-led support that has been fully aided and funded, which also gave opportunities to over 15,000 locals a much-needed job.

Seeking Resolution

While debating over a solution, it is important for all delegates to recognize the viability and impacts of each resolution. Keep in mind each country's foreign policies and be careful not to overstep any boundaries. With that in mind, there are 3 solutions that may be on the table.

International Stricter Forestry Guidelines

Forestry is a gigantic industry, there are a high number of steps in between the tree and the final product. Thus these steps are split up between many different countries and it becomes necessary to address each one of these stages to catch the root of the problems. It is important to keep in mind the different roles of each country may change the regulations necessary. These regulations would look like increased legal forces deployed to needing more. However, it is crucial that all countries act in unison and harmony to allow for less inefficient resource allocation. These regulations should span multiple sectors, the obvious one being actual forestry. Elsewise, there are other sectors such as molding and wrapping of products where laws could be tightened. By protection on the entire supply chain, criminals on all levels are able to be flushed out easier. On the other hand, delegates should be aware of the trade off of stricter regulations being the strain on economic growth.



Increased Border Security

Illegal forestry is a multinational industry and often time border checks are the places in which they are the weakest. Increase in checks and border patrol may be the answer to this unilateral issue. However, a plethora of these black market operations are hidden and mixed within legal operations which makes it difficult to catch these smugglers. Additionally they often have other legal documentations and it is timely for intensive security checks. Historically, increases in border security have often been a sinkhole of funding and resources. Thus, to increase the efficiency of resource allocation, the APEC must radically reform its approach to border security. It may consider diverting some funding and training resources to planting legal forces directly in each major operation. Countries like Russia have started to mandate marks such as tags and labels on valuable trees such as oak and beech. Countries should look into investing into technologies that make it easier to identify trees such as forensics tree sciences. However, this solution will be costly but effective so delegates should be wary of such costs.





Renewable Development

With the decreasing amount of space and the detriments with forestry, it is important to reduce our dependence on logs and trees. In recent developments, scientist have been able to find ways to diversify everyday materials to be other materials. Paper¹⁸, chairs and buildings are only some of the few sectors starting to diversify. The diversification of these materials may put less of a strain on the forestry industry and in turn create less demand in the market. Thus, this drives out the black market as less demand creates less supply. Furthermore, this solution could save us from potential disasters if a disease were to infect wildlife around the globe. Historically, methods of creating paper out of kenaf, a tropical plant, have seen success. Kenef International is one of the many companies now discovering other more efficient fibres to create products, and could be a possible solution.¹⁹ These other solutions often need less chemical processes and are more efficient in ways such as bark to fibre ratio. This allows for materials to be created in a fashion must less harmful to the environment. However, this solution should be used in conjunction with others and should not be the sole resolution passed. Renewable development is a long term investment and does not have many implications in the short term.

Increased Public Awareness

As humans are the main power on earth, there are no custodians to clean up our mess. Thus, it becomes the duty of the people to fight back together. Increased word and information to the public could help in effort and increasing movement. Increase public awareness could trigger simple things such as going out and volunteering a couple hours a week or donating to a cause.

Bloc Positions

North America

Countries in North America play a significant role in leading the international community to creating a green future. Often times, countries such as the United States and Canada as well as Asian countries such as

¹⁸ https://www.joc.com/making-paper-without-trees_19910509.html

¹⁹ <http://www.jeccomposites.com/knowledge/international-composites-news/kenaf-fibre-future-harusmas-experience>



Japan are looked up to as role models to a greener economy. Thus it is necessary that they lead the world to create policies that are sustainable and can lead us into a brighter future. North American countries are often the consumers and importer of these goods and this is where they have the most power. These economies would benefit on focusing on making sure everything coming through is legal and not filled with illegal material. In the status quo, American countries are sending donations to organizations and governments across seas to fight this issue. This should continue at perhaps a higher level. Furthermore, North American nations are in a unique position as many eyes are on them. Thus, message spread by North America are often universally viewed as a goal or at least they spark conversation. There are many organizations and management groups that are constantly and tirelessly fighting against illegal forestry. These groups are barely heard and if shown to the public could trigger a whole stronger movement. This is where the voices of North American countries can step in and lend a helping hand. These nations could be a microphone and allow for the message to be spread to be everyday civilians triggering more action to be taken.

Asia and Oceania

Asian countries are particularly vulnerable to illegal logging and has historically seen very high amount of damage because of it. It is estimated that 76-80% of all logging in Indonesia is illegal.²⁰ In places like Papua New Guinea, conditions are even worse. 70% of the possible forestry has already been occupied and conditions are only getting worse. Thus countries in Asia and Oceania should focus on containing the actual loggers as well as a special emphasis on the high amount of coercion and human rights abuses. Additionally, these nations should still try to balance their economy as excessive changes in laws may injury their economies. Delegates must be careful how they change regulations as there are many families and communities that make a living off of illegal logging as there are no options.

Latin America

The problem of illegal forestry is especially damaging due to the extremely high percentage of indigenous people. This group often uses the forest a crucial part of their culture and heritages. Often times, Illegal logging is their only source of income which makes them “modern day slaves and shadows

²⁰ <http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/campaigns/forests/problems/illegal-logging/>



of their real cultures.”²¹ Tribal culture are lost if the forest disappears and it makes it hard for them to find food for survival. Thus, to save the culture of a huge portion of these countries, Latin American countries should strive to create policies that best fit and allow for this group of people to have jobs and opportunity where previously lacking. It is important to consider the lives of people who are most closely connected with these forest and countries in Latin America should actively try to advocate for these individuals.

²¹ <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-illegal-logging.php>



Discussion Questions

1. What is the motivation for people to pursue illegal forestry?
2. What are some previous methods has your nation used to stop illegal forestry? What have been their impacts?
3. Why is it important to address this problem, especially in your country?
4. What are some possible deterrents for future black market activity?
5. If action were to be taken, what repercussions would hit the private sector?
6. What is your country's stance on the changing political/environmental climate?
7. What organizations should potentially be helpful in reducing amounts of illegal forestry?
8. Why would your nation and the global community benefit from these change?
9. What role does your country pertain in the forestry supply chain?

Further Reading

Look specifically into the What is APEC PDF

<https://www.ncapec.org/docs/>

<https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Illegal-Logging-and-Associated-Trade>

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