The Role of Whistleblowers in Illegal Timber Trade Enforcement

The Problem

The illegal timber trade is decimating forests around the globe.

Forests around the globe are under threat from the illegal harvesting of timber. This illegal activity not only threatens the biodiversity of forests, but also destroys habitats, and threatens local livelihoods.

In the global market for illegal timber, the U.S. is the world’s largest importer. Surprisingly, licensed companies play a major role in the illegal trade - as most illegally sourced timber is traded openly after being laundered into legal supply chains or unidentified as illegal.

Forest, if destroyed, can take decades to return.

Our Solution

Activate whistleblowers.

U.S. whistleblower laws have reward provisions for those who step forward with valuable information on illegal logging. The laws provide monetary rewards for U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, and NGOs, whose disclosures lead to successful prosecutions.

Leveraging this system will revolutionize the detection of logging crime, radically increase effective law enforcement, and help protect biodiversity of habitats around the world.
CUT DOWN CRIME—NOT TREES

U.S. whistleblower reward laws can be used to bolster enforcement efforts worldwide

THE LAWS

There are U.S. whistleblower reward laws with international application that can be leveraged to combat the illegal timber trade.

These robust whistleblower reward laws include the False Claims Act, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Lacey Act, and Endangered Species Act.

Enforcing regulations and requirements regarding the importation of particular types of wood could have a powerful impact on curbing the illegal timber trade.

Violation of these regulations could result in penalties and open the door to prosecution and whistleblower rewards.

Have information? Report it:
www.report-fraud-now.info/contact-nwldef

Want to partner with us? Contact:
wildlife@whistleblowers.org

NWC received a Grand Prize Award in the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge in 2016 for creating a confidential and anonymous online platform to report wildlife crime. The Challenge was an initiative of USAID in partnership with the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution, and TRAFFIC.

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