

## Spanish Pavilion of the BLUE Zone

### Side event: "The fight against worldwide deforestation. Illegal trafficking of tropical timber". December 5th: 12.00 h - 13.30 h

Tropical forests are essential to mitigate climate change. For example, the trees of the Amazon basin capture around **25% of the carbon** that the planet's forests absorb every year. However, they are being destroyed by, among other causes, illegal logging for timber trafficking. In fact, the estimated volume -in economic terms- of the illegal timber trafficking in the black market accounts for **80% of the global illegal wildlife trafficking**.

Illegal logging of forests not only favours jungle degradation and deforestation, but it also causes damage to local communities and deprives countries of incomes worth billions of euros in revenue.

The **EU Action Plan** against wildlife trafficking and the **Spanish Action Plan against illegal trafficking and international poaching (TIFIES Plan)** are being implemented in coordination to combat crimes related to illegal logging and related trafficking.

However, in this context, the detection of illegal timber is difficult and complex, since in many cases it is camouflaged in shipments of legal origin and, in addition, with the current techniques of visual identification of logs and wood (with magnifiers up to 10x only) it is difficult for inspectors to discriminate species in situ, and instead samples are sent to specialist and/or to laboratories for DNA analysis. This hinders the inspection and differentiation tasks of timber species whose trade is legal from those which are illegal because of the absence of a simple and effective methodology that can be implemented on the ground or at border inspection points.

In order to solve this problem, in Spain, within the framework of the **TIFIES Plan**, it has been developed a new identification methodology that allows to quickly discriminate and identify many tropical wood species, using the mobile phone's camera and a magnifier with up to 400x, together with a new guide of macroscopic anatomy of protected tree species subject to traffic. This technique can be easily used in the field and by non-specialized personnel.

The use of this identification methodology will increase the effectiveness of inspections, as it provides inspectors with greater confidence in the complex task of wood identification. The use of this technique will contribute to a practical reduction of illegal logging of forests and jungles, and thus diminish the current process of global deforestation, which in turn will contribute to mitigate change climate.

Discussion table on illegal timber trafficking and presentation of the "**Macroscopic early warning guide for timber species included in CITES**"

### **Program:**

Welcome introduction  
Speaker interventions  
Questions  
Summary and conclusions  
Appetizer-Lunch

### **Moderator:**

Javier Cachón de Mesa. Director General for Biodiversity and Environmental Quality. Ministry for the Ecological Transition.

### **Speakers:**

Luis García Esteban and Paloma de Palacios. Wood Technology School. Polytechnic University of Madrid.

Lieutenant Colonel Jesús Gálvez. Civil Guard Nature Protection Service.

Lorena Durand Vivanco. Director of Policies and Regulation of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) of Peru.

María Torres-Quevedo. Sub-Directorate General of Forest Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

