



Statement of work: Latin America Wood Reference Sample Collection

Objective of Work:

The aim of this work is to obtain georeferenced wood samples to build, validate, and expand an open source reference library of wood samples from across the globe. The work will pilot the development of reference library for a variety of wood identification technologies, including but not limited to: mass spectrometry, stable isotope ratios, and digital imaging systems. The purpose of this reference library will be to allow the verification of the identity and origin of internationally traded wood. This will contribute to efforts to combat illegal logging and support the production of responsibly traded forest products.

In this phase of the work, the U.S. Working Group, Inc., DBA Forest Stewardship Council – US, will use its network of certified forests globally, but with a focus on natural forests in Latin America to obtain wood samples to provide multiple sub-samples sufficient to satisfy the needs of stable isotope analysis, wood anatomy and other analysis methods. A key activity will be to identify the best and most efficient means for collecting and shipping wood samples. The samples collected will be shared with Kew Gardens and in-country xylaria.

FSC seeks to collect 200 to 250 samples of commonly traded wood species (approximately up to 5 species) from FSC certified forests. The work will build upon a successful pilot project to collect white oak samples in the U.S. and will identify how to best to facilitate rapid transit, government approval, as well as meet phytosanitary requirements. This knowledge will be used to expand the work across the 1,900 FSC certified forests that are located in all the major and minor timber producing regions of the world.

Location of Work:

Natural forests in Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru and Guatemala with the aim to expand to all natural tropical forests.

Project activities:

- Develop methodology for collection of wood samples
- Coordinate with project partners (USFS International program, Agroisolab, and Kew Gardens), in-country xylaria, relevant government officials, and local FSC offices.
- Identify target forests and forest managers
- Work with forest managers, FSC local staff, FSC auditors, Accreditation Service International (ASI) and relevant in-country officials to test collection and shipping methods
- Gain required approval for shipping samples to Kew Gardens
- Coordinate the collection of the samples
- Ship to in-country xylaria and Kew Gardens

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- Develop and manage georeferenced database of samples

Use of wood samples:

Wood samples will be sent from Kew to the USFWS Forensics Lab in Oregon for DART mass spectrometry analysis of wood chemistry, and to Agroislab in Germany for stable isotope ratio analysis. The wood samples will also be scanned in the host country and/or at Kew with a digital imaging device (Xylotron).