

Volume 4

Research Paper 3: The Impact of Ecolabels and Certification Schemes in Forestry on ASEAN Timber Trade

Ecolabels and Certification in Forestry – Issues Relevant to Use of Ecolabels in ASEAN and Towards Global Standards

A Project of the AADCP Regional Partnerships Scheme

July 2004

ITS Global

www.itsglobal.net

...E. The impact of ecolabeling schemes on trade in forestry products for ASEAN member countries

I. The impact of ecolabels on trade

... Several of these barriers related to labeling and packaging requirements imposed by governments for environmental reasons on products of export interest to developing countries. These included forestry products such as wood panels and chipboard and wood packing material. The measures often affected trade by requiring importers to adopt the domestic environmental measure as a condition of access to the market, or the banning access of products to the market.

A 2003 report by the US National Foreign Trade Council⁵⁴ also refers to recent policy action by the EU to legitimize a nation's right to enact regulations and standards that discriminate among otherwise 'like' products on the basis of 'social- and eco-friendly' process and production methods, which could lead to the erecting of trade barriers. Against these emerging trends it is evident that ecolabels have already caused and have the potential to cause further restrictions on trade ^{xxiv}.

54 See the report: EU Regulation, Standardization and the Precautionary Principle: The Art of Crafting a Three-Dimensional Trade Strategy that Ignores Sound Science. The study is based, in part, on a prior NFTC study

entitled, "Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science", accessible at www.nftc.org.

(pp. 40-41)

...F. Bibliography

...III. Reports

...National Foreign Trade Council, (2003), EU Regulation, Standardization and the Precautionary Principle: The Art of Crafting a Three-Dimensional Trade Strategy that Ignores Sound Science

(p. 50)