

The Amazon's silent crisis

ISRAELI TRADE IN AMAZON RAINFOREST TIMBER

Israel has become a key destination for Amazon timber: in 2013, it ranked as the 11th biggest importer in terms of value (US\$) for all Brazilian Amazon timber and 8th for the valuable Ipê wood.¹ The vast majority of Ipê imported into Israel is used for decking, and nearly all the decking projects currently being carried out by public bodies are being constructed with this timber.² Notable examples of Ipê decking in Israel are at Tel Aviv Port commercial and entertainment district,³ the First Train Station complex in Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv Promenade, where there is an ongoing project to install decking and pergolas (see below).

In 2013 Israel imported nearly 5,000 tonnes⁴ of Amazon timber, the vast majority believed to be Ipê. Some 80% of the total came from two

Amazon states, Pará and Mato Grosso,⁵ where illegal logging in 2011–12 is estimated to have represented 78%⁶ and 54%⁷ respectively of the entire area logged.

The main export ports for Amazon timber destined for Israel are Belém, Itajaí, and Paranaguá. Generally, Ipê and other Amazon timber is loaded into containers, which are shipped to the port of Ashdod via other countries.⁸

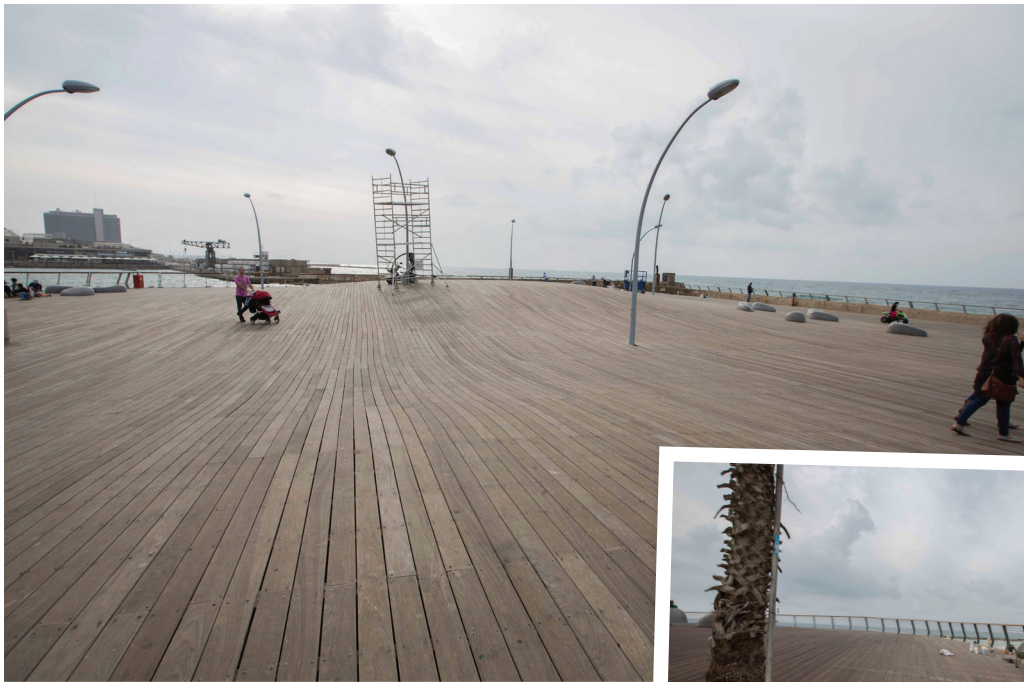
Importers and traders of Amazon timber in Israel include Etz Vetza, Brotim, Treelog, Ordilan, Botvin, May Hasharon, A.Z. Gerbi, Averbuch, Ashdod Timber Trade, and Shamayim Yerukim (Green Sky). Retailers include well-known Israeli companies such as the DIY store Home Center and Carmel Carpets.⁹

Carmel Carpets

Carmel Carpets purchases its Ipê from Ordilan,¹⁰ believed to be the biggest timber importer in Israel.¹¹ Amazon timber suppliers to Ordilan include DLH. Greenpeace's investigation has established that DLH buys timber from several sawmills that have handled timber from estates engaged in illegality, including those owned or held by Agropecuária Vitória Régia SA [insert hyperlink to Case Study 2], the Associação Virola-Jatobá [insert hyperlink to Case Study 1], the late Ceser Busnello [insert hyperlink to Case Study 3], Tecniflora Ltda [insert hyperlink to Case Study 5] and the estate of Violeta Elizabeth Hagmann [insert hyperlink to Case Study 4]. Ordilan also purchases timber from Marine Box, which has sourced timber said to be from one of Ceser Busnello's estates.

Etz Vetza

Etz Vetza is one of the best-known timber importers in Israel. This family business operates in several locations, including Ashdod port and a showroom in the prestigious design centre in Bnei Brak. Etz Vetza has a certificate of origin for the Ipê it sells. However, this names the firm's Ipê supplier in Brazil as Tradelink.¹² Greenpeace's investigation has established that Tradelink buys timber from several sawmills that have handled timber from estates engaged in illegality, including those owned or held by Agropecuária Vitória Régia SA, Associação Virola-Jatobá, Ceser Busnello, and Tecniflora Ltda.¹³



Tel Aviv Port and Promenade in Israel.
24/11/2013
(c) Greenpeace / Ilai ben Amar



Tel Aviv Municipality

Tel Aviv Municipality started a project in 2013 to refurbish the city's popular beachfront promenade. Parts of the promenade have already been rebuilt with Ipê decking as well as a pergola, and more decking and another 10 pergolas are planned.

The timber contractor for the first stage of the project was Shamayim Yerukim, whose Brazilian suppliers include K.M. Comercio E Exportação De Madeiras, which buys timber from several sawmills that have handled timber from landowners Agropecuária Vitória Régia SA and Tecniflora Ltda,¹⁴ both shown by Greenpeace's investigation to have laundered illegal timber. Shamayim Yerukim is believed to be Israel's biggest contractor for Ipê work.

Endnotes

- <http://aliceweb.desenvolvimento.gov.br/>
- Greenpeace Amazon timber investigation.
- <http://www.greensky.co.il/dekim.html>
- <http://aliceweb.desenvolvimento.gov.br/>
- <http://aliceweb.desenvolvimento.gov.br/>
- Imazon (2013) Transparency in Forest Management – State of Para 2011 to 2012. <http://www.imazon.org.br/publications/forest-management-transparency-report-state-of-para-2012-to-2013>
- Imazon (2013) Transparência Manejo Florestal Estado do Mato Grosso 2011-2012. <http://www.imazon.org.br/publicacoes/transparencia-manejo-florestal/boletim-transparencia-manejo-florestal-do-mato-grosso-2011-2012>
- Industry sources.
- Greenpeace Amazon timber investigation.
- Greenpeace Amazon timber investigation.
- Industry sources.
- The certificate can be downloaded from [http://www.eza.co.il/category/sale#\(FBBCA40A-2F78-4C53-BF3D-E9D9F909A453\)](http://www.eza.co.il/category/sale#(FBBCA40A-2F78-4C53-BF3D-E9D9F909A453))
- Greenpeace Amazon timber investigation.
- Greenpeace Amazon timber investigation.