For Immediate Release
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EIA Statement on the Launch of the National Pact for Legal Wood

The Peruvian government, together with private sector actors and civil society organizations, launched the National Pact for Legal Wood on December 11, 2014. The Pact is a voluntary initiative which sets the goal of ensuring all Peruvian wood, for national or international sale, is legally sourced. The Environmental Investigation Agency welcomes this initiative, and in addition to commitments in the Pact itself, encourages all signatories to advocate for:

- The creation of a transparent monitoring system, including documentation that accompanies the production and trade of all wood species in the country,
- Implementation of sanctions and penalties for those that facilitate and carryout the laundering of illegal wood,
- Titling of the 20 million hectares of forest land that Indigenous communities have claimed, and
- Coordination with other anti-illegal logging initiatives currently underway.

While the pact includes important commitments, it does not yet lay out concrete steps to ensure greater legality in Peru's forest sector. EIA's multi-year investigation, which culminated in the report *The Laundering Machine: How Peru's fraud and corruption in Peru's concession system are destroying the future of its forests*, revealed the importance of developing a transparent monitoring system for the extraction and trade of timber, and the need for effective sanctions against illegal actors. These actions, combined with renewed commitment and resources for current illegal-logging initiatives and government action to secure land title for Indigenous communities, are the most essential steps to ensuring legality in Peru's forest sector.