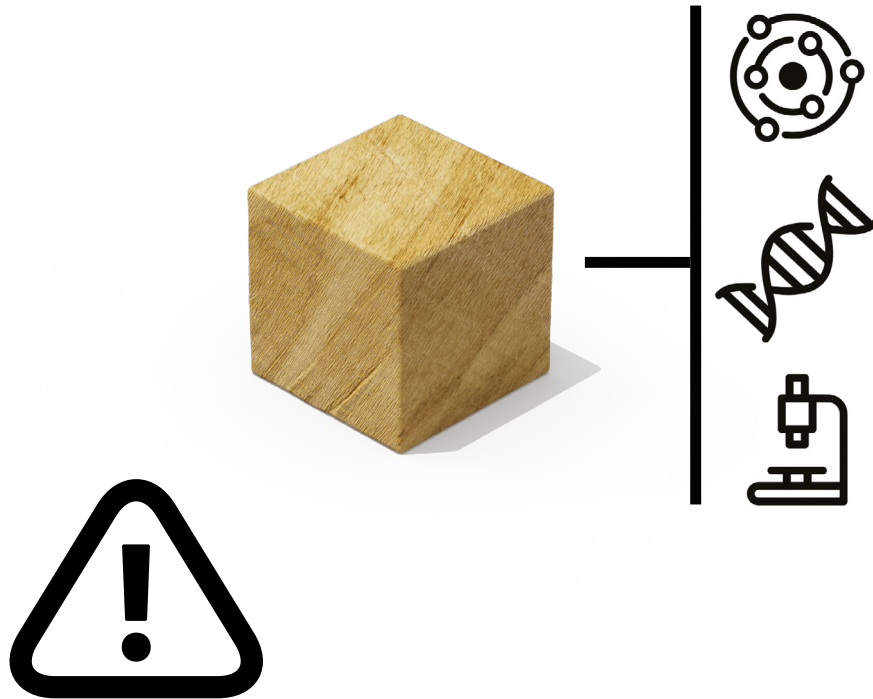# WORLD FOREST ID

Collection guide for wood

IMPORTANT: Data from the samples you collect may serve as evidence in investigations and enforcement actions.

Please ensure all collections comply with the guidelines and specifications in this document.

— Contents

—
Basic collection protocols for wood

1. Do not sample without written permission.

2. Install & register the World Forest ID App before departure.

3. Ensure there are at least two phones with a registered App.

4. Keep GPS on and have backup power.

5. Confirm species before sampling.

6. Avoid infected or damaged trees.

7. Target larger trees: Min 35 cm diameter.

8. Core samples: Min 1 cm x 15 cm, Min 3 cm heartwood.

9. Sawn blocks: Min 2 x 2 x 20 cm from center of tree.

10. Verification & core samples must come from same tree.

11. Label everything with correct Latin/scientific name.

12. Use matching barcodes for samples from same tree.

13. Sanitize outside of tools after each tree.

14. Follow all safety procedures.

Safety procedures

Wear a hardhat when requested.

Wear protective eyewear/gloves with power tools.

Wear a Hi-Viz vest when requested.

Wear insect-protective clothing/repellent as needed.

Use ear protection for loud tools (drill/chainsaw).

Keep and know how to use first aid supplies. Know where your nearest medical facility is.

Wear steel toe caps when using a chainsaw or lifting heavy objects.

Preparation and equipment

Before departing on an expedition:

1.   Confirm in which areas you are allowed to sample.

2.   Know the Latin/scientific names of species to be sampled.

3.   Confirm the optimal distance between samples.

4.   Confirm your role and responsibilities.

5.   Understand all safety procedures and potential hazards.

6.   Complete a kit check with your expedition leader.

7.   Make sure all tools are sharp and functional.

8.   Pre-label all sample packs with matching barcodes.

9.   Disclose any relevant health conditions.

10.   Check contact details for the nearest medical facility.

—
Kit checklist

Print this page to help with your kit check

PAPERWORK / LABELING / CONTAINMENT

- [ ] Printed/signed collection approval form
- [ ] 2x smartphones with World Forest ID App
- [ ] Power bank for smartphones
- [ ] Barcode sheets
- [ ] Proforma labels
- [ ] Paper straws for core samples
- [ ] Verification sample bags
- [ ] Sawdust sample bags (if using core drill)
- [ ] Sawn block bags (if using chainsaw)
- [ ] Ziploc bags for full sample set
- [ ] Clipboard
- [ ] Pens and paint markers
- [ ] Backpack for sample storage

HEALTH & SAFETY / PPE / CLOTHING

- [ ] First Aid kit
- [ ] Bleed control kit (if using chainsaw)
- [ ] Snakebite kit (where appropriate)
- [ ] Hi-Viz vest
- [ ] Hardhat (where appropriate)
- [ ] Gloves (all tools)
- [ ] Eye protection (if using drill/chainsaw)
- [ ] Ear Protection (if using chainsaw)
- [ ] Steel toe caps (with heavy objects)
- [ ] Snakegators (where appropriate)
- [ ] Knee pads (optional)
- [ ] Insect-protective clothing/repellent

NAVIGATION

- [ ] GPS app or device with backup power
- [ ] Printed map & compass

TOOLS FOR WOOD SAMPLING

- [ ] Increment borer
      (Min 1 cm diameter, Min 30 cm length)
- [ ] Core drill (Min 1.2 cm diameter)
- [ ] Gas powered drill & gas (if using core drill)
- [ ] Gas powered chainsaw & gas
- [ ] Sanitizer: Isopropanol/Ethanol

TOOLS FOR VERIFICATION SAMPLES

- [ ] Hand-held saw or pruning shears
- [ ] Telescopic pruners
- [ ] Slingshot & ammunition (rocks/nuts)
- [ ] Climbing equipment (harness/rope/
      rope-descending device)

TOOL ACCESSORIES

- [ ] Multi-tool (for tool maintenance)
- [ ] Hi-Viz tape/paint (to prevent tool loss)
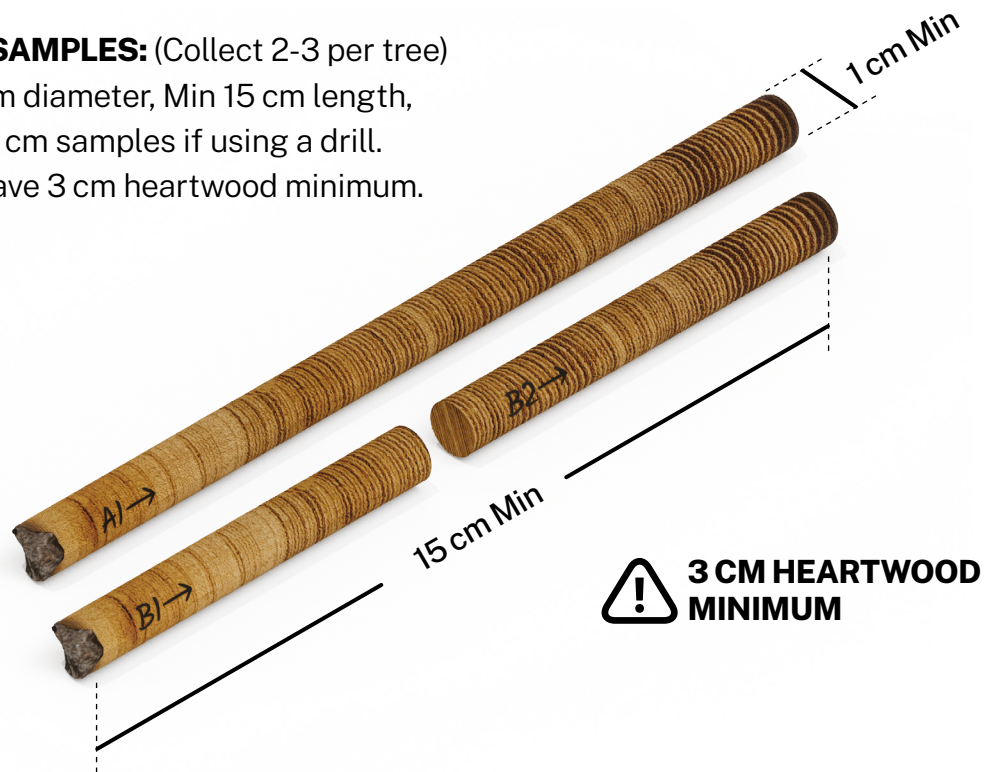- [ ] Tool belt
- [ ] Forestry flagging

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

- [ ] Dendrology guide
- [ ] DBH tape or Biltmore stick
- [ ] Binoculars (optional)

Sampling specifications

CORE SAMPLES: (Collect 2-3 per tree)
Min 1 cm diameter, Min 15 cm length,
or 2 x 9 cm samples if using a drill.
Must have 3 cm heartwood minimum.

1 cm Min

A1 →

B2 →

B1 →

15 cm Min

⚠ **3 CM HEARTWOOD MINIMUM**

SAWN BLOCK SAMPLES:

Min 2 x 2 x 20 cm.
Sawn from center to bark.

2 cm Min

20 cm Min

2 cm Min

⚠ **SAWN FROM CENTER TO BARK**

Sampling specifications

VERIFICATION SAMPLES:

Collect one set per species per expedition.
Can include: leaves, seeds, nuts, flowers, twigs.
Must come from tree not forest floor.
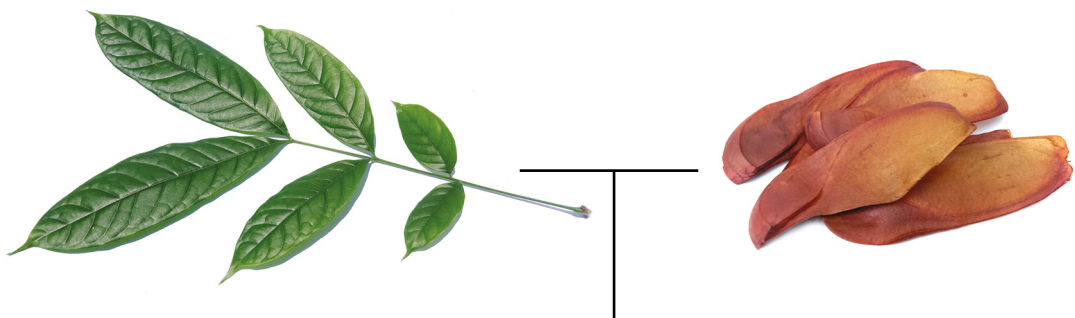
⚠ **VERIFICATION SAMPLES MUST COME FROM SAME TREE AS CORE SAMPLES**

SAWDUST SAMPLES:
Collected when using a core drill.

SINGLE LEAF:
Collect one from each tree sampled.
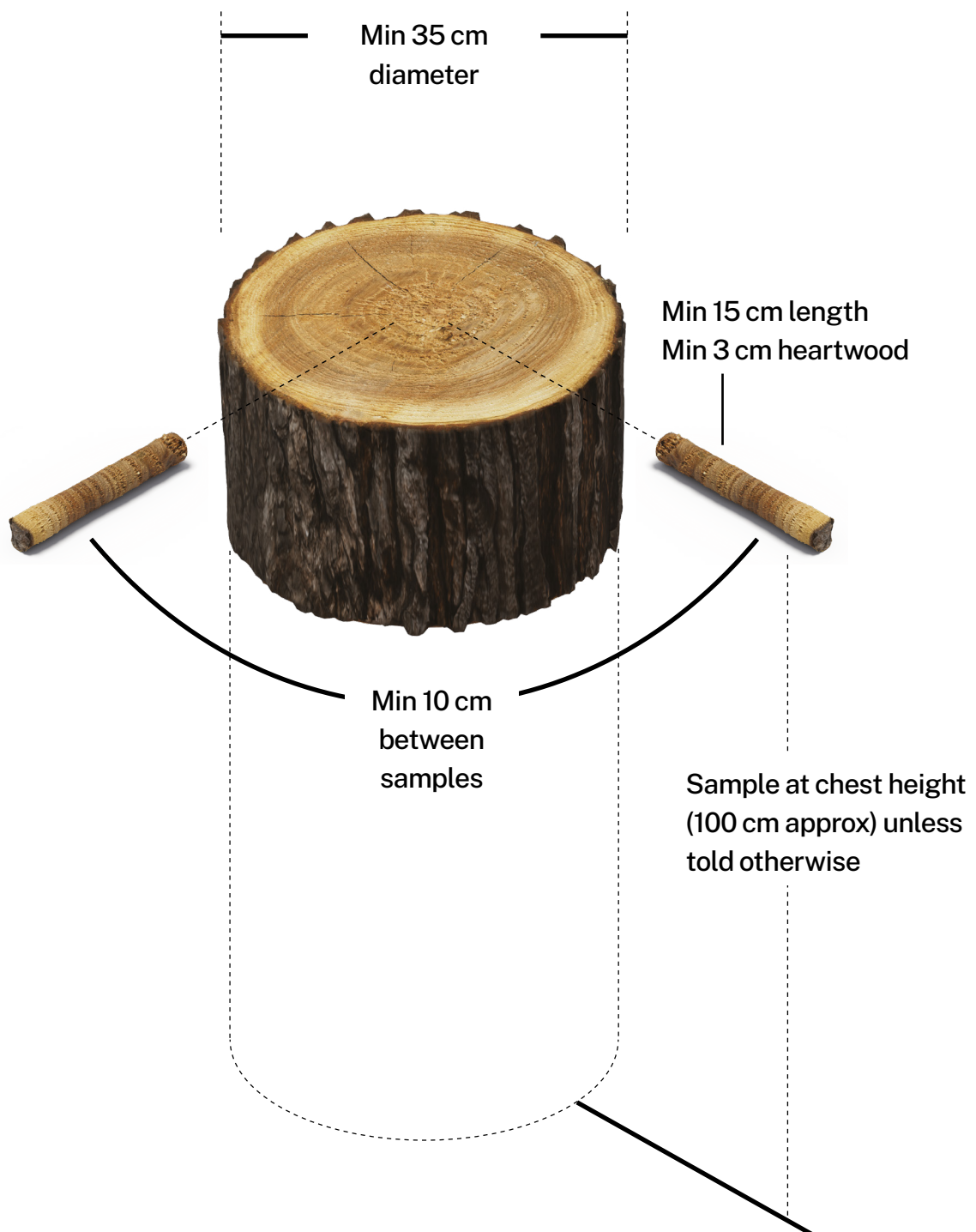Avoid forest floor leaves.

Navigation

1. Use a standalone GPS device or smartphone app with offline maps for accurate navigation. Recommended apps:

    - *AllTrails*
    - *Gaia GPS*
    - *Locus Map*
    - *ViewRanger*

2. Keep the device powered on throughout the day to increase accuracy and have a power bank or extra batteries on hand.

3. Bring a compass and map as backup.

Tree selection

Min 35 cm diameter

Min 15 cm length
Min 3 cm heartwood

Min 10 cm between samples

Sample at chest height (100 cm approx) unless told otherwise

What trees to avoid

Don't sample from plank/buttress roots.

Don't sample on dangerous, unstable or sloping ground.

Avoid powerlines and low hanging branches.

Avoid sampling from trees that show signs of:

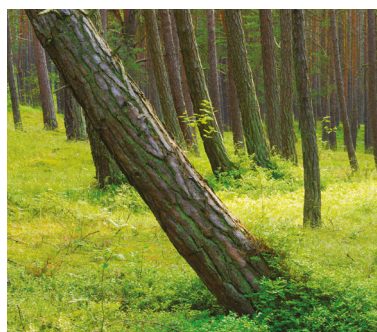

Fungal fruiting bodies (mushrooms).

Insect damage (holes or excrement).

Abnormal growths on leaves, branches or trunk.

Cracks, splits or sunken areas.

Leaning or tilting which may indicate root damage.

How cores are marked up

Each core we take from a single tree is marked A, B, C.

Where cores come apart, each part is numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 starting from the outside in.

⚠️ **DO NOT CUT CORES, TRY TO KEEP THEM IN ONE PIECE**

An arrow is used to indicate which end of the core faces the center of the tree.

Core and its packaging need to be marked identically.

WORLD FOREST ID

Heartwood Sample
minimum 30mm / 1.2"

minimum 10mm / 3/8"

Increment borer sampling

Tools: Haglof increment borer, 1 cm x 30 cm.

Handle

Auger bit

Extractor

⚠ **TIP IS EASILY DAMAGED HANDLE WITH CARE**
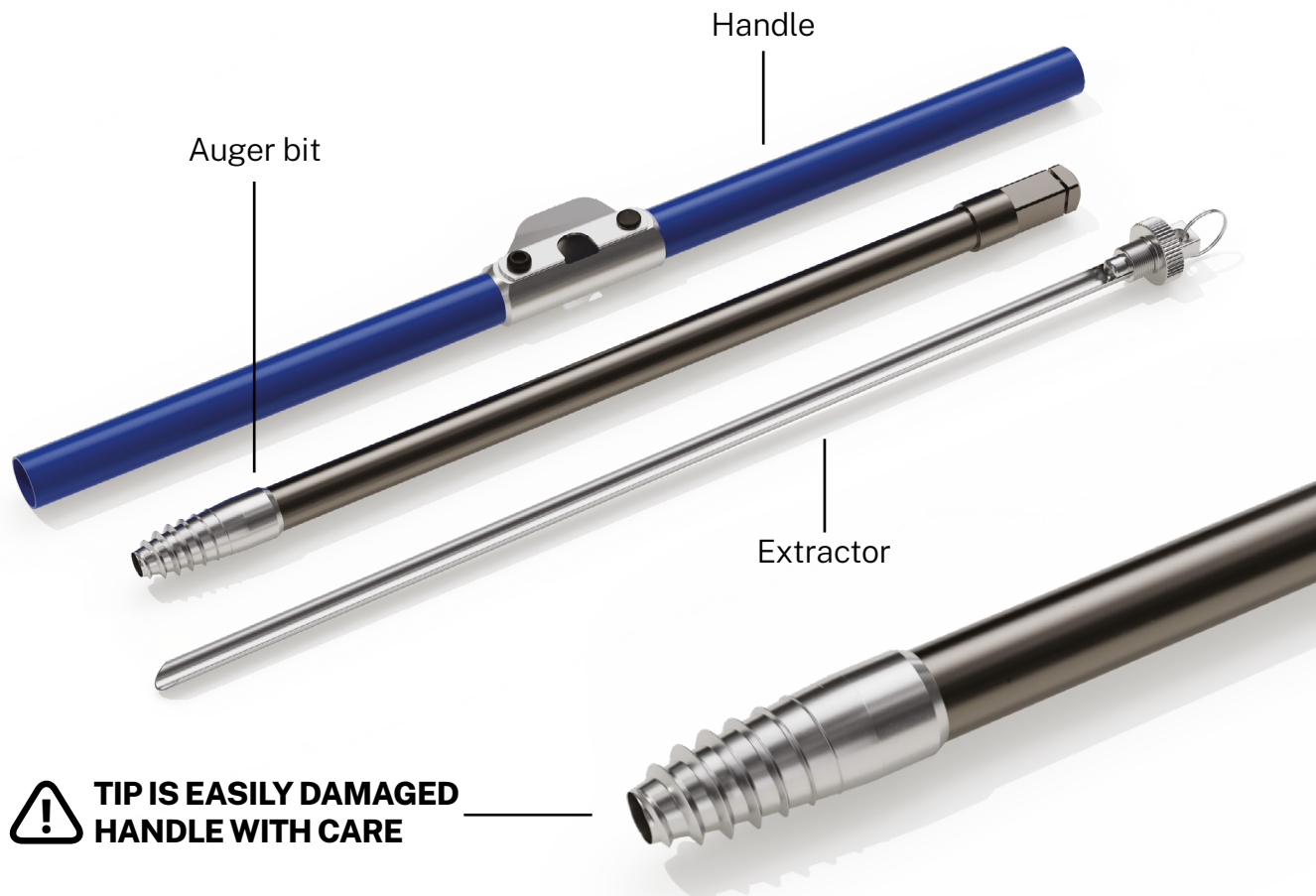
1. Unscrew the extractor and store safely.
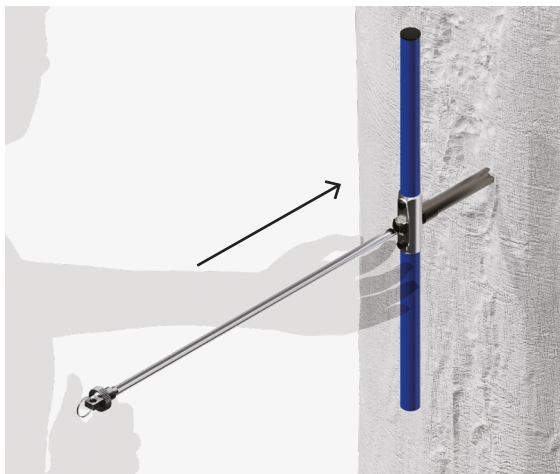
2. Secure Auger bit into handle.

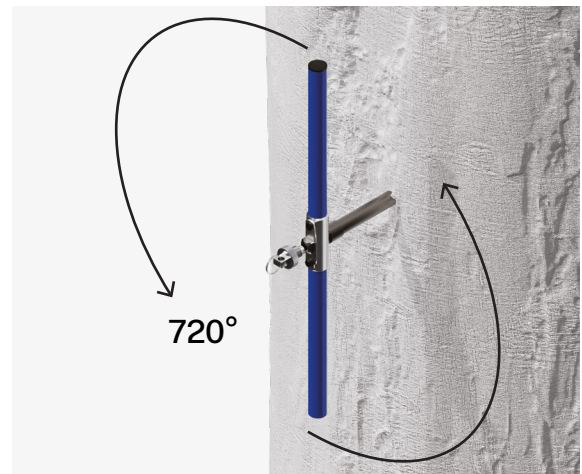3. Gently twist the borer into the tree for the first 2-3 cm.

4. Then use both hands until the extractor reaches 15 cm.

15 cm
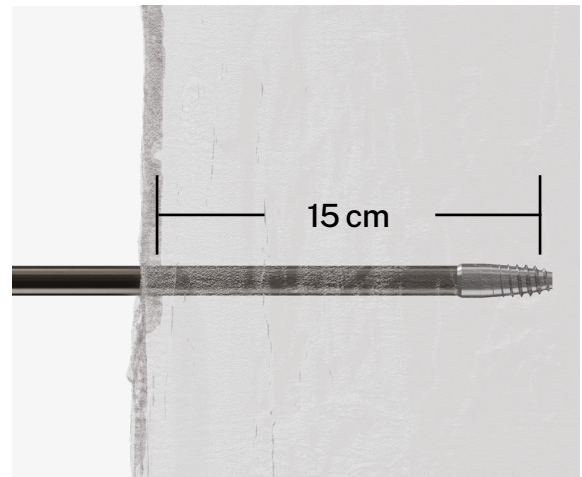
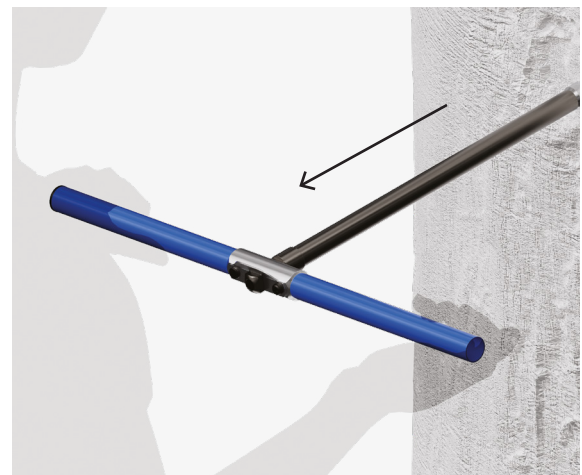5. Insert extractor and wiggle gently left to right.

6. Rotate handle 720° anticlockwise to detach core.

720°

7. Remove the extractor and core carefully.

8. Immediately unscrew borer from tree to avoid it getting stuck.

9. Mark 'A1' on core & pack with arrow pointing towards center of tree.

10. Log with World Forest ID App and repeat for following cores (B, C).

11. Clean only outside of borer with Isopropanol/Ethanol after use.

Core drill sampling

Tools: gas powered drill (Stihl BT 45),
1.2 cm x 9 cm plug cutter.

Plug cutter

Extender

Gas drill

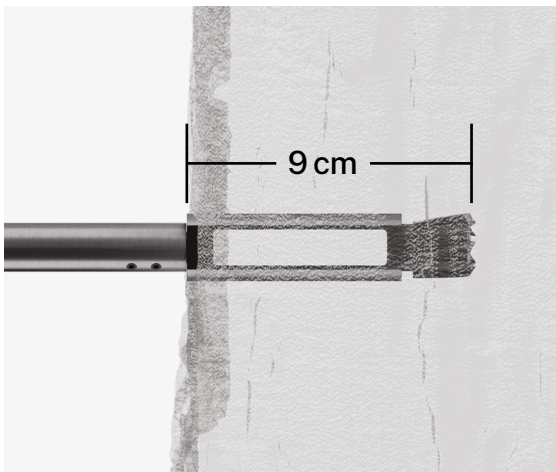9 cm plug capacity

**WEAR EYE / EAR
PROTECTION & GLOVES**

1. Secure sawdust collection bag under target area.

2. Start drill slowly, hold securely and level.

3. Drill to 9 cm, remove while the drill is rotating at low speed.
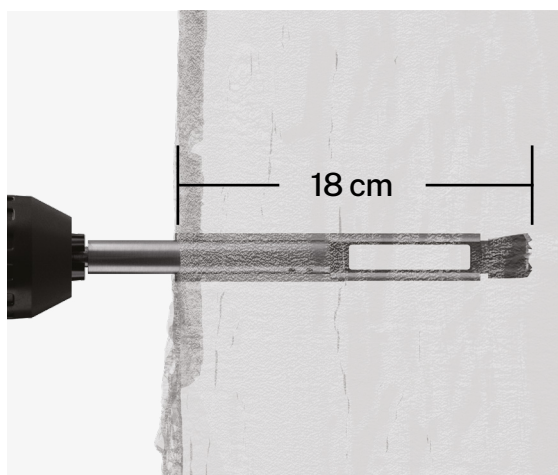

9 cm

4. Use a long screwdriver to dislodge the core.

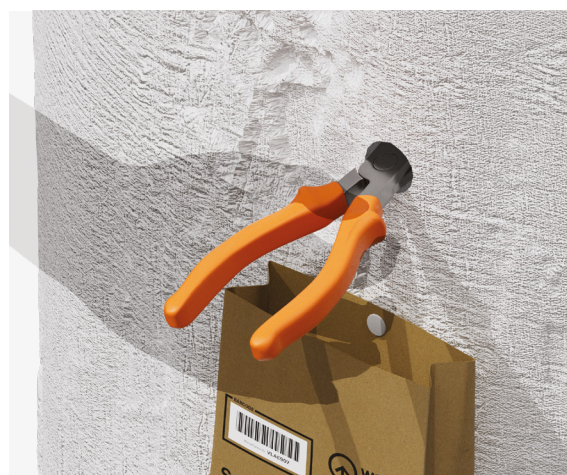

5. Use pliers to carefully remove the core.

6. Mark 'A1' on core & pack with arrow pointing towards center of tree.

Tree center

A1

7. Drill again to 18 cm to obtain a second sample.

8. Remove the second core with long nosed pliers.

9. Mark 'A2' on core & pack with arrow pointing towards center of tree.

10. Log each core part in the App and repeat for following cores (B, C).

11. Clean only outside of drill bit with Isopropanol/Ethanol.

Sawn block sampling

Tools: gas powered chainsaw/full PPE.

⚠ **ONLY USE A CHAINSAW WITH PERMISSION AND ENSURE YOU ARE USING FULL PPE**

Helmet & eye/ear protection

Steel toe caps

Heavy-duty gloves

Protective legwear

1. Choose a tree without drying cracks.

2. Clear the area of debris/obstacles, keep a safe distance from others.

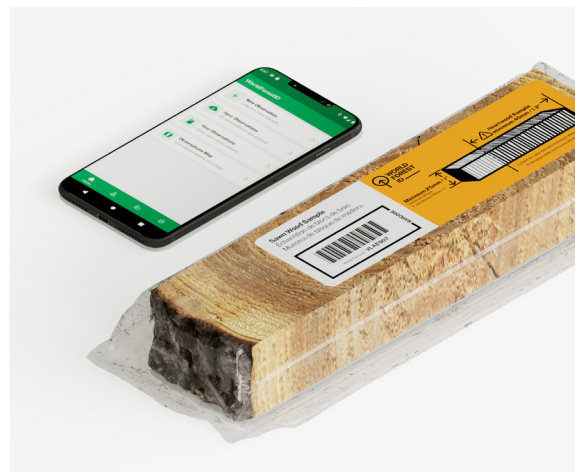3. Keep the chainsaw close to the ground when cutting.

4. Make two lateral and one vertical cut to create a block from the center.

5. Use an axe or hammer & chisel to trim the end if needed.

6. Package & barcode the block then log the sample in the App.

Collecting leaves or verification samples

VERIFICATION SAMPLES:

Collect one set per species per expedition.
Can include: leaves, seeds, nuts, flowers, twigs.
Must come from tree not forest floor.

A SINGLE LEAF:

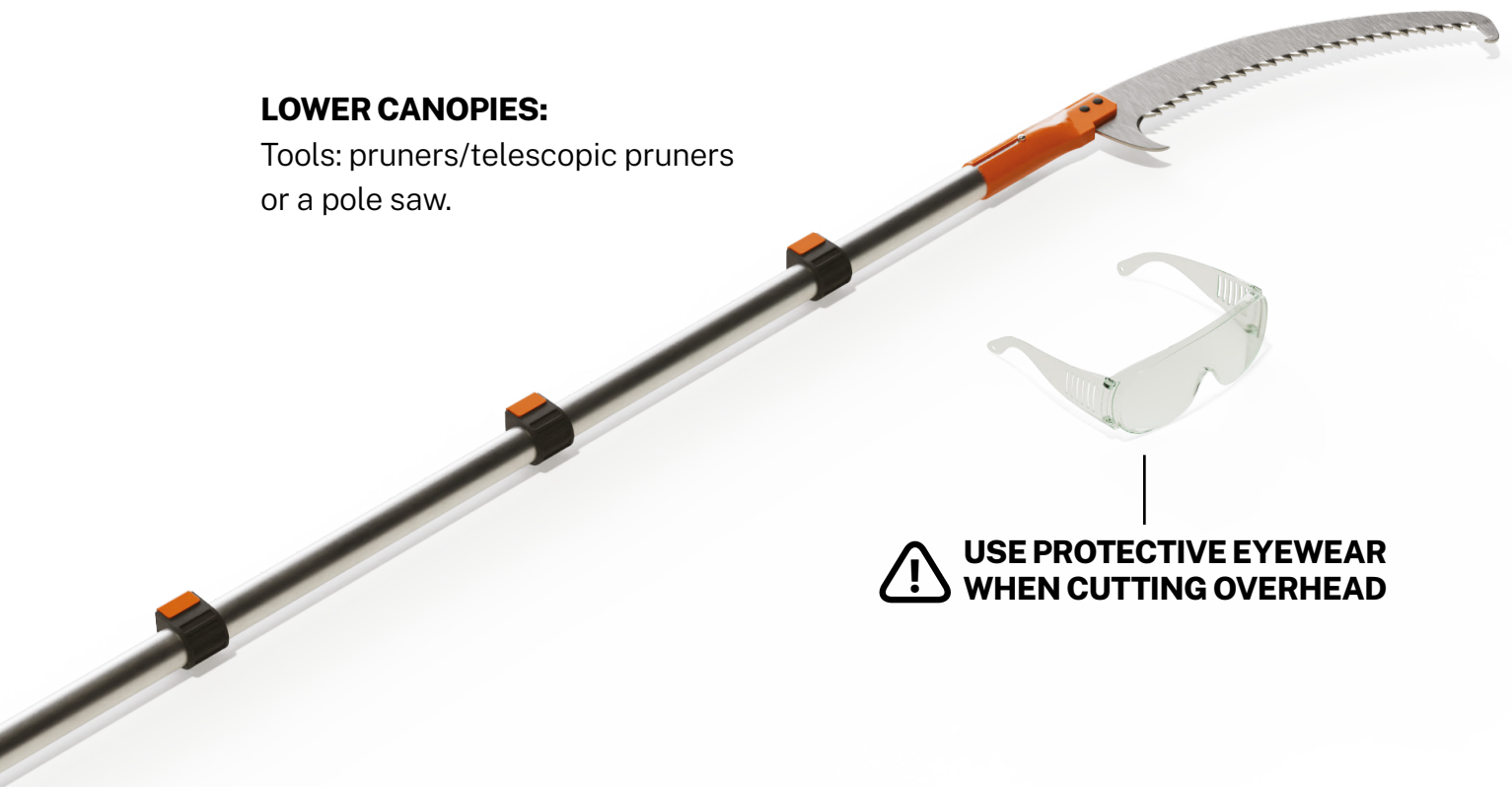Collect one from each sampled tree.
Avoid forest floor leaves.

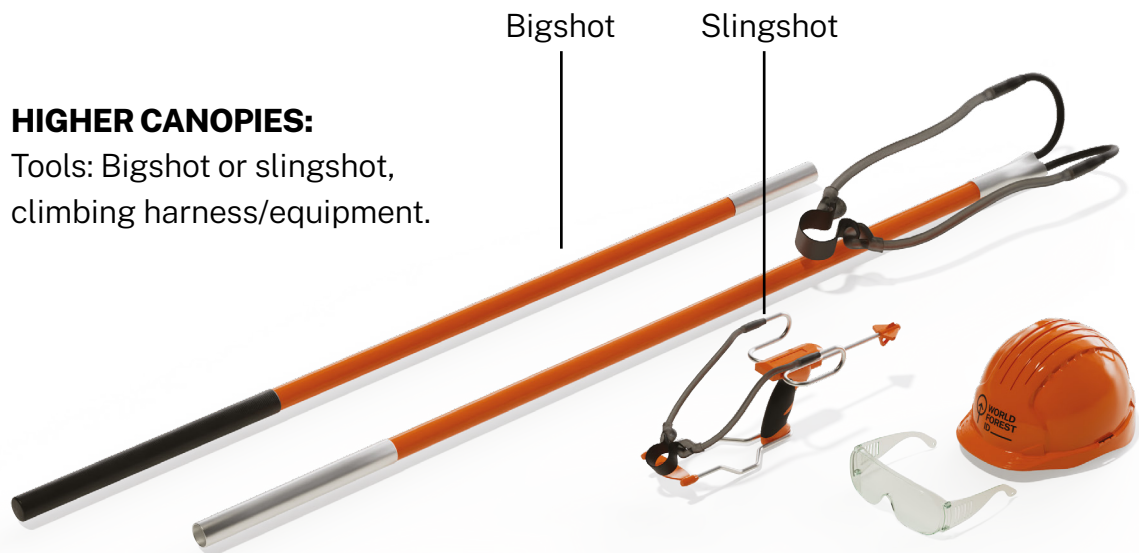⚠ **VERIFICATION SAMPLES MUST COME FROM SAME TREE AS CORE SAMPLES**

LOWER CANOPIES:

Tools: pruners/telescopic pruners
or a pole saw.

⚠ **USE PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR WHEN CUTTING OVERHEAD**

HIGHER CANOPIES:

Tools: Bigshot or slingshot,
climbing harness/equipment.

Bigshot   Slingshot

**KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHERS
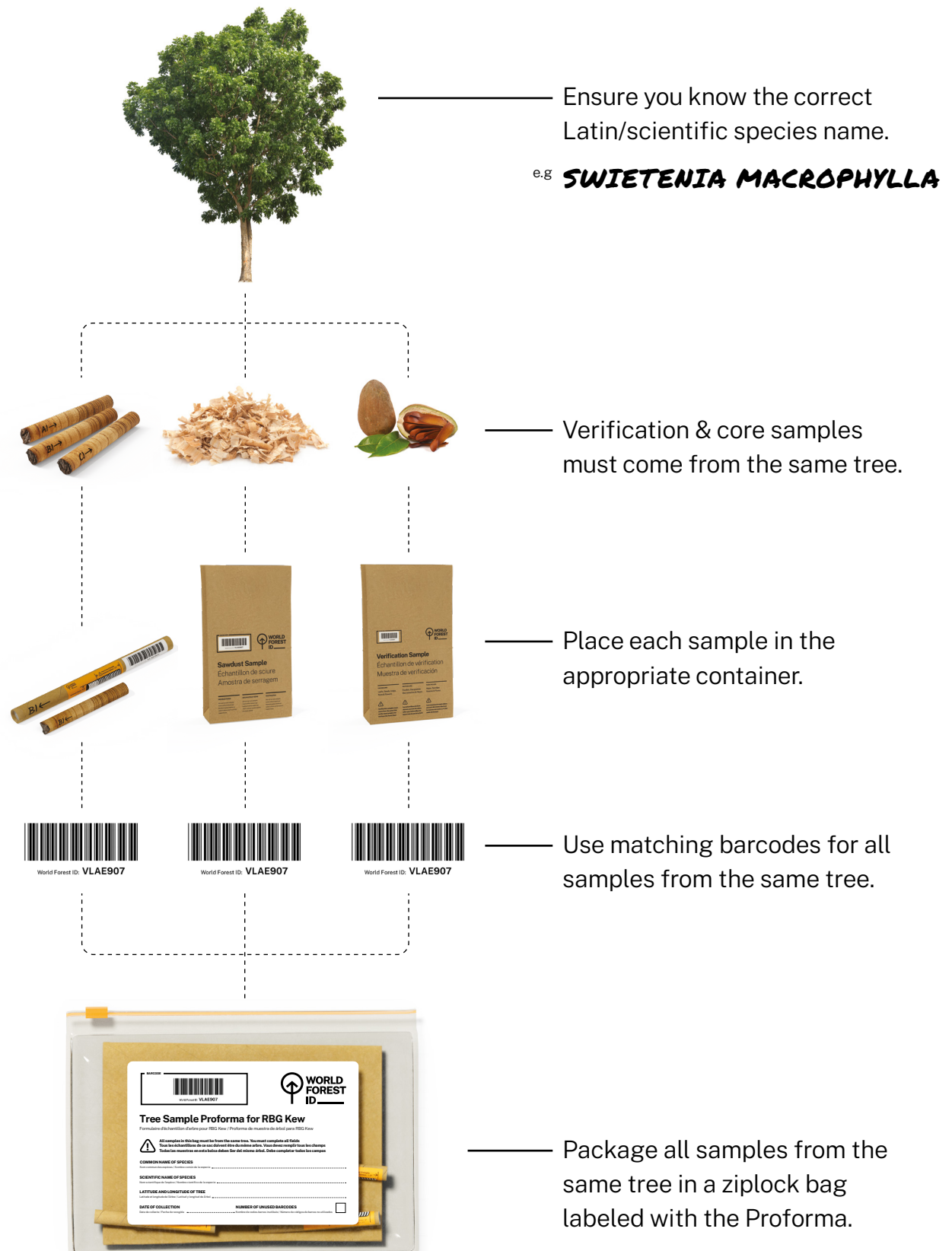WHEN USING A BIGSHOT OR SLINGSHOT**

No people within 75m

**DO NOT CLIMB WITHOUT PERMISSION
FROM YOUR EXPEDITION LEADER**

ONLY CLIMB IF YOU HAVE:

Permission & proper training.

Assessed risks & inspected equipment.

A full-body harness & PPE.

Implemented a fall arrest system.

A stable work position.

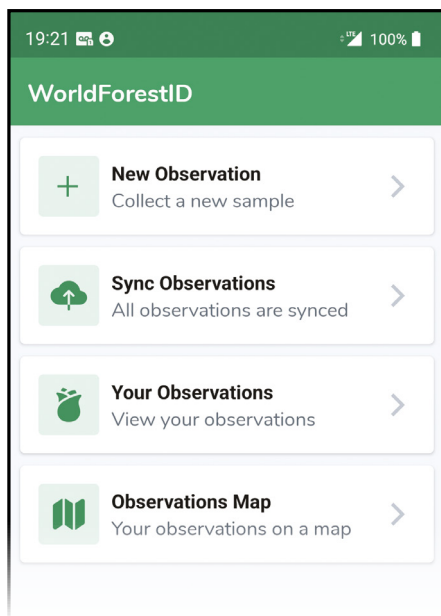Chosen secure anchor points.

Established an emergency plan.

Packaging and labelling

Ensure you know the correct Latin/scientific species name.

e.g *SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*

Verification & core samples must come from the same tree.

Place each sample in the appropriate container.

Use matching barcodes for all samples from the same tree.

World Forest ID: **VLAE907**

World Forest ID: **VLAE907**

World Forest ID: **VLAE907**

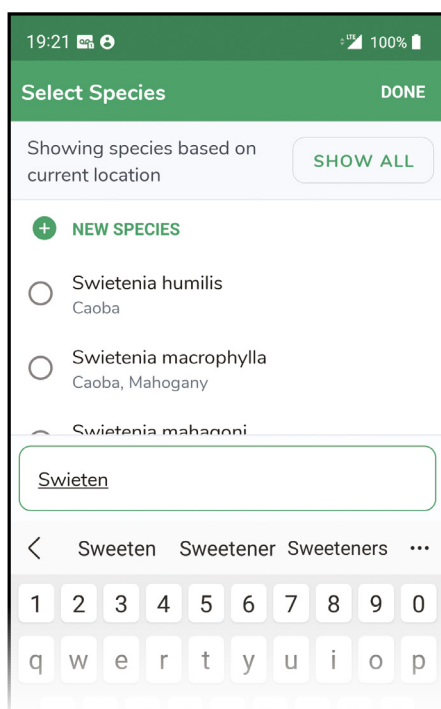Package all samples from the same tree in a ziplock bag labeled with the Proforma.

World Forest ID App usage

IMPORTANT: Ensure you register for, update, and open the World Forest ID App prior to the expedition. Have the App installed on at least two smartphones.

Tap "New Observation".

Search for the species name you are collecting, select it, then tap 'DONE'.

Scan the barcode on the Proforma.

BARCODE

World Forest ID: VLAE907

Take photographs of: tree, bark, area, leaf, samples, barcode.

Observation Form screen:

19:21 · 100%

← **Observation Form** SAVE

Species*
Swietenia macrophylla
Select the tree species

Identifier* BARCODE SCANNER
Identifier
Click the camera icon to open the code scanner

Photos EXAMPLES
Tap to Add Photos
0 photos collected
Tap to add or remove photos

Types of Collected Samples* EXAMPLES
Tap to add samples

Location Description
Tap for options
Select one or more options

Location Name or Concession *
Enter name of forest or forest certification code
Name of location or concession

Tree Diameter
Tree Diameter CM
Approximate diameter of tree

Comments
Tap to add comments
Any additional information

GPS Location OPTIONS
Error
Location is automatically collected

SAVE OBSERVATION

Check the items you have collected: wood, sawdust, verification samples, etc.

Enter type of location: managed forest, protected area, etc.

Enter name of the forest or area.

Add tree diameter.

Any additional information: condition of tree, area, etc.

If location is not automatically shown enter coordinates from GPS device.

When complete 'SAVE OBSERVATION'.

Completing the Proforma

⚠ **ALL SAMPLES IN THIS BAG MUST COME FROM THE SAME TREE**

Barcode must match that on all samples inside the bag.

Label with correct Latin/scientific name.

BARCODE

World Forest ID: **VLAE907**

WORLD FOREST ID

Tree Sample Proforma for RBG Kew

Formulaire d'échantillon d'arbre pour RBG Kew / Proforma de muestra de árbol para RBG Kew

⚠ All samples in this bag must be from the same tree. You must complete all fields
Tous les échantillons de ce sac doivent être du même arbre. Vous devez remplir tous les champs
Todas las muestras en esta bolsa deben Ser del mismo árbol. Debe completar todos los campos

COMMON NAME OF SPECIES
Nom commun des espèces / Nombre común de la especie
BRAZILIAN MAHOGANY

SCIENTIFIC NAME OF SPECIES
Nom scientifique de l'espèce / Nombre científico de la especie
SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF TREE
Latitude et longitude de l'Arbre / Latitud y longitud de Árbol
-4.8321° S -65.3650° W

DATE OF COLLECTION
Date de collecte / Fecha de recogida
17/05/23

NUMBER OF UNUSED BARCODES
Nombre de codes-barres inutilisés / Número de códigos de barras no utilizados
2

Use App or GPS device for accurate location.

Our PDF guides

WOOD

Collection guide for wood

Drying guide for wood

Dispatch guide for wood

SOY

Collection guide for soy

Drying guide for soy

Dispatch guide for soy

COCOA

Collection guide for cocoa

Drying guide for cocoa

Dispatch guide for cocoa

OIL PALM

Collection guide for oil palm

Drying guide for oil palm

Dispatch guide for oil palm

COFFEE

Collection guide for coffee

Drying guide for coffee

Dispatch guide for coffee

GENERAL

World Forest ID overview

Tool maintenance

Expedition planning

WORLD FOREST ID

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