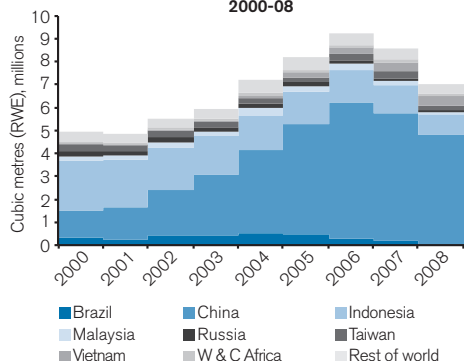
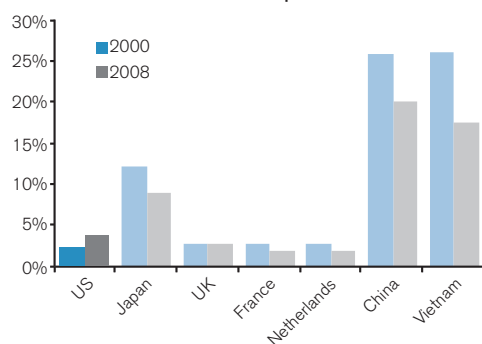


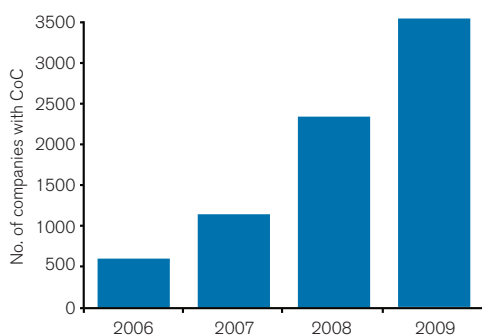
Estimated illegally sourced wood-product imports, 2000-08



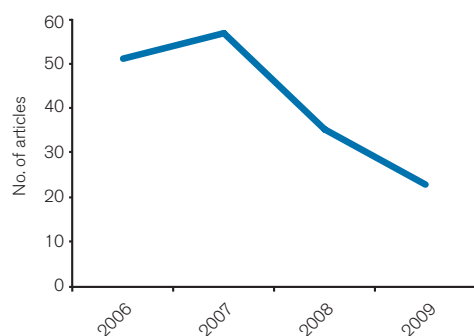
Estimated illegally sourced imports as percentage of all imports



FSC chain-of-custody certificates, 2006-09



International media coverage trend



Imports of Illegally Sourced Wood Products

- Estimated US imports of illegally sourced wood products almost doubled between 2000 and 2006, driven by a growth in imports of wood furniture made in China from illegally sourced wood.
- Imports fell by 24% between 2006 and 2008, a result partly of the economic recession and partly of the reduced illegal timber content in imports from China, in turn the result of reduced illegal logging in countries from which China sources timber. New import controls implemented in mid-2008 have also begun to have an impact.
- A higher proportion of US wood-product imports is illegally sourced than those of the UK, France or the Netherlands, and this proportion has continued to rise.
- 76% of the US's imports of illegally sourced wood now arrive indirectly via third-party processing countries, up from 32% in 2000. This has made cleaning up supply chains more challenging than for other consumer countries.

Government Response

- The US government response was initially focused on support for affected producer countries, but now also addresses the role of the country as a consumer.
- In 2008 the US was the first country in the world to introduce legislation prohibiting the import and sale of illegally sourced wood. The impact of this is already being felt in the US and in source countries. The US is the only one of the five consumer countries with such legislation in place.
- The US is the only one of the five consumer countries studied which does not have a national government wood procurement policy.

Private-sector Response

- The US has seen more rapid recent growth in the numbers of companies with chain-of-custody certification for handling independently certified wood than the other consumer countries studied. Numbers grew almost sixfold in the last three years; the strongest growth was in 2008, the year that new US legislation prohibiting the sale of illegally sourced wood came into effect.
- 22 million cubic metres of wood used by US companies which have joined the WWF forest and trade network are now of known, licensed source, double the amount at the end of 2007.

Media Attention

- Media attention in the US to illegal logging and associated trade grew rapidly between 2000 and 2007, but has since declined. Very little US coverage mentions the role of the US as a consumer of illegal wood.

Areas for Improvement

- The new import legislation alone cannot prevent consumption of illegal wood. The US must seek to develop bilateral trade and enforcement arrangements with additional producer countries. Such cooperation could be crucial in implementing new import controls.
- A US national government wood procurement policy could also provide useful support.
- US buyers need to take additional action to clean up supply chains for wood products arriving from China.