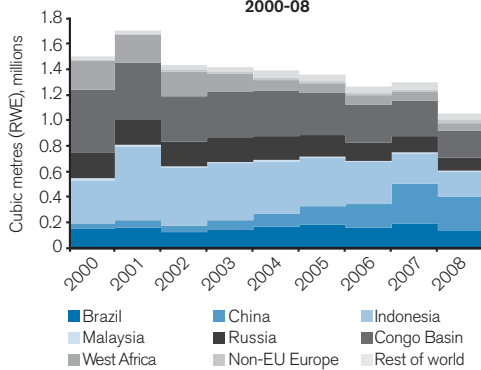


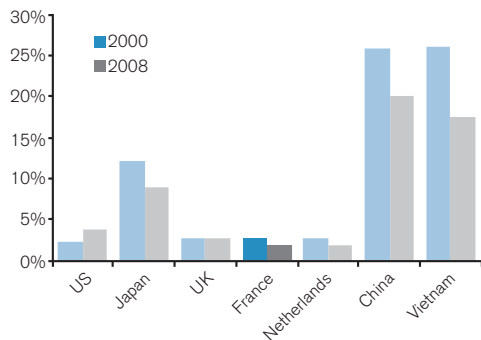
France

Chatham House illegal logging indicators country report card

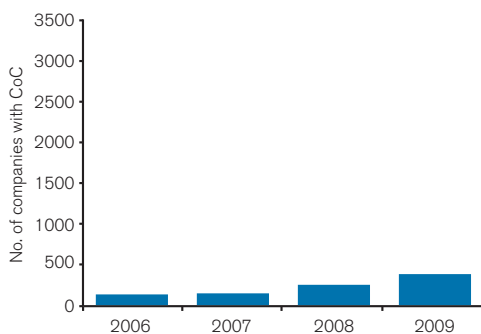
Estimated illegally sourced wood-product imports, 2000-08



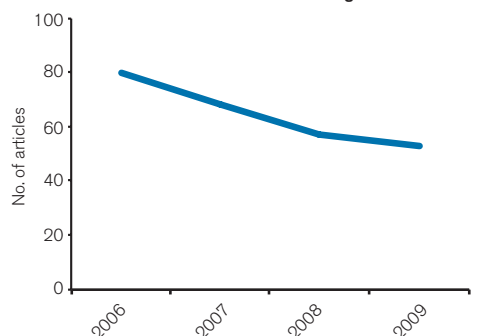
Estimated illegally sourced imports as percentage of all imports



FSC chain-of-custody certificates, 2006-09



International media coverage trend



Imports of Illegally Sourced Wood Products

- French imports of illegally sourced wood have been declining steadily since 2001, and had fallen 38% by 2008 – a larger percentage fall than in the US, the UK or the Netherlands.
- A particularly large proportion of France's imports of illegal wood is from the Congo Basin, Indonesia and Brazil, which have all seen significant declines in illegal wood flows.
- Illegally sourced imports per capita and as a percentage of total imports have also declined.
- France now has the lowest per capita illegal timber consumption and the lowest proportion of illegally sourced wood in overall imports of any of the five consumer countries.
- A relatively large proportion of French imports of illegally sourced wood continues to arrive directly from affected producer countries, making demand-side actions easier to implement.

Government Response

- France scores less well than the Netherlands and the UK with regard to laws, regulations and policies for tackling the problem, but it is the only one of the consumer countries studied that has conducted a thorough review of the country's role in the problem.
- France has been among the most actively engaged EU member states in helping negotiate voluntary partnership agreements on the issue with producer countries. Agreements are in place or planned with countries which represent more than a third of estimated French imports of illegally sourced wood.
- The French government implemented a wood procurement policy in 2004. The policy is not as well designed or implemented as those of the UK and the Netherlands, and has had less of an impact.

Private-sector Response

- France has far fewer companies with chain-of-custody certification for handling independently certified wood than the UK, the US, the Netherlands or Japan, but numbers are growing rapidly.
- Large volumes of French imports from Central Africa are now certified sustainable or verified legal.
- French industry association codes of conduct on the issue are among the most rigorous in Europe, requiring systematic monitoring of members' compliance.

Media Attention

- Illegal logging receives much less attention in the French media than in any of the other consumer countries examined, and attention is now declining. However, the role of France as a consumer of illegal wood is highlighted in a large proportion of articles.

Areas for Improvement

- A formal coordination process for actions by different government departments is needed.
- The French government needs to improve design and implementation of its wood procurement policy, including establishing a dedicated advice service, raising evidence standards and introducing systematic monitoring of implementation.
- If new EU legislation designed to prevent the consumption of illegal wood is to be effective, it is important that France, like all EU member states, includes strong penalties and puts the necessary resources into enforcement.