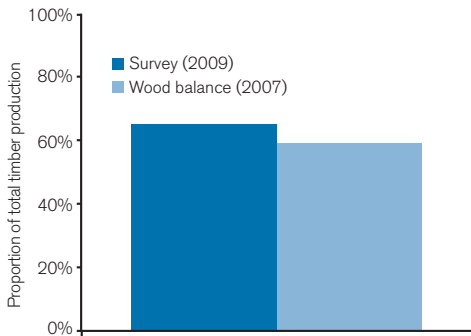


# Ghana

## Chatham House illegal logging indicators country report card

Latest estimates of illegal logging



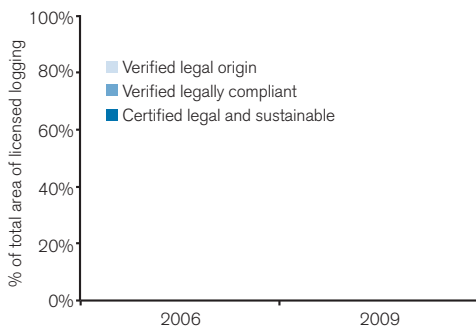
### Policy Assessment Results

(green = relatively good / red = poor)

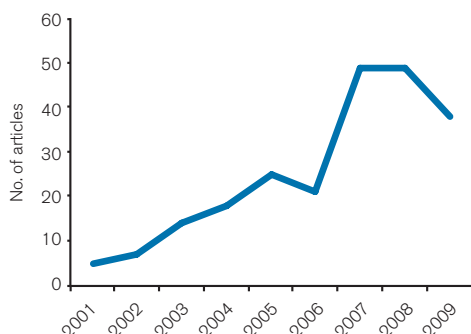
High-level policy	Yellow
Legislative framework	Yellow
Checks and balances	Yellow
International trade cooperation*	Orange
Supply and demand	Orange
Tenure and use rights*	Green
Timber tracking	Orange
Transparency	Orange
Resource allocation*	Green
Law enforcement	Red
Information management	Red
Financial management	Yellow

\*Because of the nature of the scoring method, the results for international cooperation give a more negative impression and those for tenure and resource allocation a more positive impression than they should.

Independently verified log production



International media coverage trend



### Levels of Illegal Logging

- There do not appear to have been significant reductions in illegal logging in Ghana in recent years, although the number of cases detected has increased, possibly as a result of improved enforcement.
- Expert perceptions of illegal logging levels were the most negative of the five producer countries, and registered the least evidence of improvement.
- Both wood-balance analysis and the expert survey suggest that illegal logging, at around two-thirds of overall production, remains high and is worse than in either Cameroon or Indonesia.
- Only a quarter of illegal timber production is from the formal sector – the bulk of the problem relates to artisanal 'chainsaw' logging.

### Government Response

- Parliamentary oversight of forest agencies in Ghana has been good; tenure and use rights arrangements are also better than in the other producer countries examined.
- Laws, policies and regulations in Ghana remain quite poor in many other areas. In the Chatham House policy assessment Ghana recorded the worst scores of the five producer countries in relation to information management and the use of best practice in law enforcement.
- Experts on Ghana considered the government response to have improved less in recent years than those in the other four producer countries.
- The voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the EU has resulted in some policy improvements, and additional improvements are under way. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the process has been very good and Ghana intends to include all production and exports under its legality assurance system.
- Enforcement data show that more cases are being detected and brought to court, but prosecutions are not keeping up.

### Private-sector Response

- No timber production in Ghana is yet independently verified as legal or sustainable, whereas the proportion in the other producer countries is already considerable and growing rapidly.
- The proportion of Ghana's wood exports destined for sensitive markets has been declining rapidly since 2001 – this may be one reason for the poor private-sector response.

### Media Attention

- International media attention to illegal logging in Ghana has increased sevenfold over the last ten years, but the country still receives the least coverage of the five producer countries examined. Domestic coverage is also very limited.

### Areas for Improvement

- New and improved timber-tracking and information management systems are urgently needed, and it is important that those now being developed under the VPA with the EU are well implemented.
- Ghana needs to improve best practice in enforcement – higher penalties must be applied in practice, coordination between relevant agencies improved, and greater use made of technologies and methodologies to detect illegal logging and timber smuggling.
- Action is also needed to speed up the processing of illegal logging cases through the courts.