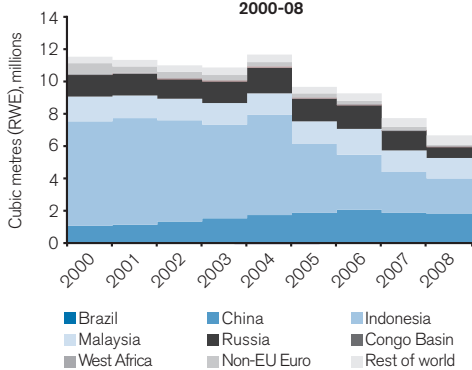


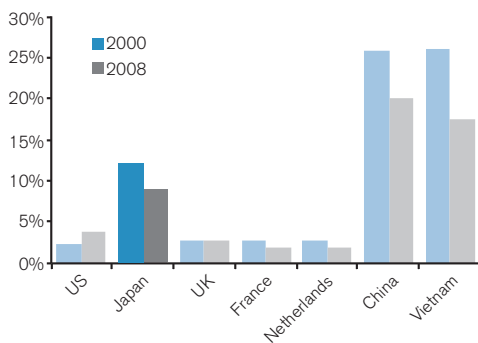
Japan

Chatham House illegal logging indicators country report card

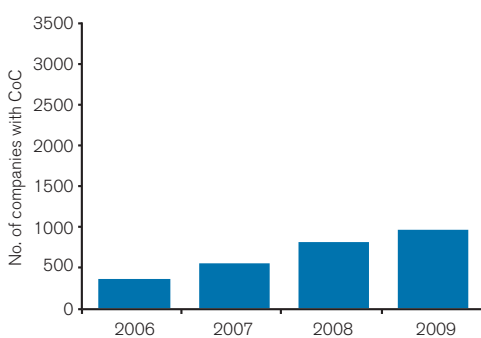
Estimated illegally sourced wood-product imports, 2000-08



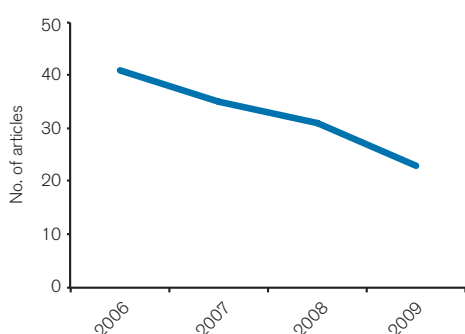
Estimated illegally sourced imports as percentage of all imports



FSC chain-of-custody certificates, 2006-09



International media coverage trend



Imports of Illegally Sourced Wood Products

- Japanese imports of illegally sourced wood products have fallen further than those of the other four consumer countries studied, with a 43% reduction since their peak in 2004.
- Illegally sourced imports per capita and as a percentage of total imports also declined.
- Japan's imports of illegally sourced wood are still much higher per capita and as a proportion of overall imports than those of the US, UK, France or the Netherlands. Per capita consumption of illegal wood is double that of the other countries.
- A lower proportion of illegally sourced wood imports to Japan arrives via third-party processing countries than is the case for the US and UK, and a greater proportion comprises primary products, both of which should make implementation of demand-side measures easier.

Government Response

- A formal coordination body including relevant government departments was established in 2002, but was disbanded in 2009 following a change of government.
- Although Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia in 2003 to work together to tackle the problem, the country does not have formal cooperative trade arrangements in place with any producer countries.
- Japan does not have laws prohibiting import and sale of illegally sourced wood, and no such legislation is in preparation. Japan lags behind the US and EU in this regard.
- Japan put in place a policy requiring evidence of legality for government wood purchases in 2006, but the policy is less robust than those in place in the UK, France and the Netherlands.

Private-sector Response

- In view of the size of the market, Japan has relatively few companies with chain-of-custody certification for handling independently certified wood. Numbers almost trebled between 2006 and 2009, although this is a slower growth rate than that seen in the France, the UK and the US, and growth is getting slower.
- There is no WWF Global Forest and Trade Network in Japan, and no companies have yet obtained chain-of-custody certification for handling verified-legal wood.

Media Attention

- Illegal logging now receives considerable attention in the Japanese media. Attention has declined in the last three years, but not to the same degree as in the UK, the US, France or the Netherlands. The role of Japan as a consumer is quite rarely covered.

Areas for Improvement

- A detailed assessment of the extent and nature of Japanese consumption of illegally sourced wood is lacking and could help to drive improvements in the government and private-sector response. A formal government action plan is also needed.
- Japan should prohibit the import and sale of illegally sourced wood, and require credible evidence of legality of all timber traded on its markets. FLEGT legality licences for imports from producer countries which have agreed voluntary partnership agreements with the EU could provide such evidence.
- Japan's government wood procurement policy needs to be significantly improved, including with higher evidence standards and more precise definitions of legality and sustainability.