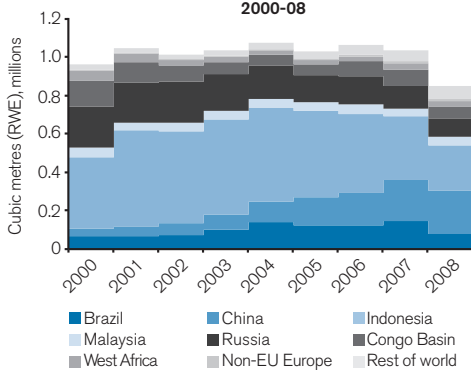
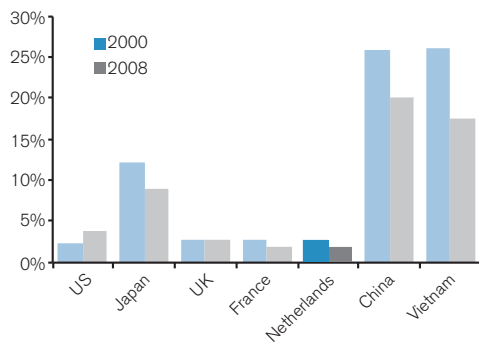


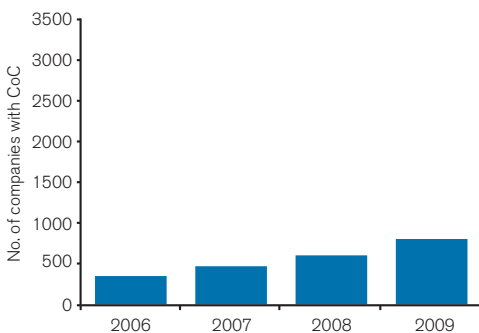
Estimated illegally sourced wood-product imports, 2000-08



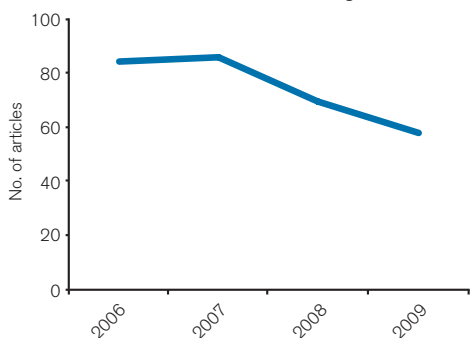
Estimated illegally sourced imports as percentage of all imports



FSC chain-of-custody certificates, 2006-09



International media coverage trend



### Imports of Illegally Sourced Wood Products

- Estimated imports of illegally sourced wood products into the Netherlands fell 21% between 2004 and 2008.
- Illegally sourced imports per capita and as a percentage of total imports also declined. The Netherlands has the lowest proportion of illegal wood in imports of the five consumer countries studied.
- The Netherlands acts as an entrepôt for illegally sourced timber consumed elsewhere in Europe; as a result, the country imports more such timber than other countries compared to its size.
- The Netherlands imports significant quantities of illegally sourced timber from a wider range of countries than the UK, the US, France or Japan.
- Although the proportion is declining, most of the Netherlands' imports of illegally sourced wood products are still shipped directly from producer countries, making it potentially easier to assess legality than in the US or UK.

### Government Response

- The Netherlands scores well on laws, regulations and policies for tackling the problem, second only to the UK of the five countries studied.
- The Dutch government has analysed the potential for using existing legislation to tackle imports of illegal wood, but has not conducted a review of the extent and nature of such imports.
- The Netherlands 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 being negotiated which encompass almost 40% of the Netherlands' estimated imports of illegal wood.
- The Netherlands has a well-designed and well-implemented national government wood procurement policy, which was put in place in 2004.

### Private-sector Response

- Relative to the size of the country's industry, the Netherlands has a large number of companies with chain-of-custody certification for handling independently certified wood. The number has more than doubled in the last three years.
- Netherlands industry association codes of conduct on the issue are among the most rigorous in Europe, requiring systematic monitoring of members' compliance.
- As yet there is no WWF forest and trade network for companies to join in the Netherlands, whereas such networks exist in the US, the UK and France.

### Media Attention

- Illegal logging receives more attention in the Dutch media than in France, but less than in the UK. However, attention has declined rapidly in the last two years. A significant proportion of articles mention the role of the country as a consumer of illegal wood.

### Areas for Improvement

- Systems are required for monitoring implementation of the Dutch government's wood procurement policy, and while the policy is good it could still be improved.
- If new EU legislation designed to prevent the consumption of illegal wood is to be effective, it is important that the Netherlands, like all EU member states, includes strong penalties and puts the necessary resources into enforcement.