

SPECIAL REPORT: EU illegal timber imports

Statistics compiled by Forests Monitor on behalf of Fern.

1. The level of illegal logging

Estimates of illegal logging have been made for the following four countries. This does not mean that these are the only countries where timber is illegally produced - these figures are likely to represent only a fraction of the total amount of illegally produced timber from tropical forests world-wide. The calculations for the extent of illegal timber products being imported to the EU countries listed below therefore represent a conservative estimate:

Brazil: 80%

Source: Brazilian Secretariat for Strategic Affairs (1997)

Indonesia: 73%

Source: Indonesia-UK Tropical Forest Management Programme (2000) 'Roundwood Supply and Demand in the Forest Sector in Indonesia'.

Malaysia: 35%

Source: WWF (1995) 'Bad Harvest'.

Cameroon: 50%

Source: World Resources Institute (2000) 'An Overview of Logging in Cameroon'.

2. Imports into the United Kingdom

(i) Sources of the UK's tropical timber imports in 1999¹

Brazil	35%	700,000m ³
Indonesia	35%	700,000m ³
Malaysia	20%	400,000m ³
Cameroon	7%	140,000m ³

(ii) Potential import of illegal tropical timber to the UK

Brazil: 80% of 700,000 = 560,000m³ = 28% of total UK tropical timber import

Indonesia: 73% of 700,000 = 510,000m³ = 25% of total UK tropical timber import.

Malaysia: 35% of 400,000 = 140,000m³ = 7% of total UK tropical timber import.

Cameroon: 50% of 60,000 = 30,000m³ = 2% of total UK tropical timber import.

TOTAL: 62% of tropical imports to the UK could potentially come from illegal sources.

3. Imports into Germany

(i) Sources of German tropical timber imports (logs and sawnwood) in 1999²

Logs:

Cameroon 54.3% 80,200m³

Sawn Wood:

Cameroon: 5.5% 18,200m³

Brazil: 1.4% 4700m³

Indonesia: 5 % 16,600m³

Malaysia: 30% 99,400m³

(ii) Potential imports of illegal tropical timber (logs and sawnwood) to Germany

Logs:

Cameroon: 50% of 80,200 = 40,100m³ = 27% of total German imports of tropical logs

Sawn Wood:

Cameroon: 50% of 18,200 = 9,100m³ = 2.8% of German imports of tropical sawnwood.

Brazil: 80% of 4,700 = 3,760m³ = 1.2% of total German imports of tropical sawnwood.

Indonesia: 73% of 16,600 = 12,100m³ = 3.7 % of total German imports of tropical sawnwood.

Malaysia: 35% of 99,400 = 34,800m³ = 10.6 % of total German imports of tropical sawnwood.

TOTAL: 27% of German log imports could potentially be illegally produced or traded. 18% of tropical sawnwood imports could come from illegal sources.

4. Imports into Spain

(i) Sources of Spain's Tropical Timber Imports in 1999³

Logs:

Cameroon 50.2% 124,000m³

Sawn Wood:

Cameroon 32% 274,500m³

Brazil 21% 177,900m³

Indonesia 0.1% 900m³

Malaysia 0.1% 900m³

(ii) Potential import of illegal tropical timber (logs and sawnwood) to Spain

Logs:

Cameroon 50% of 124,000 = 62,000m³ = 25% of total Spanish imports.

Sawn Wood:

Cameroon 50% of 274,500 = 137,200m³ = 16% of total Spanish imports.**Brazil** 80% of 177,900 = 142,300 cubic metres = 16.6% of total Spanish imports.**Indonesia** 73% of 900 = 700 cubic metres = 0.08% of total Spanish imports.**Malaysia** 35% of 900 = 300 cubic metres = 0.04% of total Spanish imports.

Sawn Wood:

Brazil: 80% of 398,800 = 319,000m³ = 37.6% of total French imports of tropical sawnwood.**Cameroon:** 50% of 97,000 = 48,500m³ = 5.7% of total French import.**Malaysia:** 35% of 77,400 = 27,100m³ = 3.2% of total French import.**Indonesia:** 73% of 14,200 = 10,000m³ = 1.2% of total French import.**TOTAL: At least 10% of log imports to France could come from illegal sources. 48% of sawnwood imports are potentially illegal.****5. Imports into the Netherlands****(i) Sources of Dutch Tropical Timber Imports 1999⁵**Malaysia 418,000m³Indonesia 165,000m³Cameroon 153,000m³Brazil 92,000m³**(ii) Potential import of illegal tropical timber to the Netherlands**Malaysia 35% of 418,000 = 146,300m³Indonesia 73% of 165,000 = 120,500m³Cameroon 50% of 153,000 = 76,500m³Brazil 80% of 92,000 = 73,600m³**TOTAL: As much as 50% of tropical imports into the Netherlands from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cameroon, and Brazil could come from illegal sources.****TOTAL: 25% of Spanish tropical log imports could be from illegal sources. 33% of tropical sawnwood imports are potentially illegally produced or traded.****5. Imports into France****(i) Sources of France's Tropical Timber Imports (logs and sawnwood) in 1999⁴**

Logs:

Cameroon 20% 172,100m³

Sawn Wood:

Brazil 47% 398,800m³Cameroon 11.4% 97,000m³Malaysia 9.1% 77,400m³Indonesia 1.7% 14,200m³**(ii) Potential import of illegal tropical timber (logs and sawnwood to France**

Logs:

Cameroon 50% of 172,100 = 86,000m³ = 10% of total French imports of tropical logs.¹ Please see Friends of the Earth's briefing paper *Import of illegal tropical timber into UK*.² The data for German tropical timber imports does not include plywood, veneers or shaped wood. Source: Hardwoodmarkets.com, June 2000.³ The data for Spanish tropical timber imports does not include plywood, veneers or shaped wood. Source: Hardwoodmarkets.com, July 2000.⁴ The data for French tropical timber imports does not include plywood, veneers or shaped wood. Source: Hardwoodmarkets.com, August 2000.⁵ All Dutch imports of tropical timber from Malaysia, Brazil, Cameroon and Indonesia. Please refer to Aidenvironment, *Herkomst onbekend: over illegale kap en de Nederlandse houtmarkt*, published September, 2000.**Fern Brussels**, 20 Avenue des Celtes, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.Tel: +32 2 742 2436. Fax: +32 2 736 8054. E-mail: fern.belgium@wanadoo.be**Fern UK**, 1c Fosseyway Business Park, Stratford Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9NQ, UK.Tel: +44 1608 652 895. Fax: +44 1608 652 878. E-mail: saskia@gn.apc.org