Action on illegal logging: measuring impacts

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Chatham House indicators of progress project

- How do we know what’s happening? Can’t generally measure extent of illegal logging
- Chatham House indicators project to assess:
  - Levels of attention
  - Government policy development and implementation
  - Private sector policy development and implementation
  - Actual levels of illegal logging and trade
  - Backed up by survey of experts
- Phase 1 study out by June 2010:
  - Producers: Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia
  - Consumers: France, Japan, Netherlands, UK, US
  - Processors: China, Viet Nam
Preliminary results (1)

- Pilot study showed encouraging progress in Cameroon and Indonesia 2001–06:
  - 8m ha forest saved (more than annual global forest loss)
  - 1.6bn tonnes CO$_2$e avoided (4% global human emissions)
Importsof illegally-sourced timberfell in all cons & proc countries in 2008; down 20% in consumer countries & 10% in processing countries.

Seven countries combined imported est. 36 million m$^3$ RWE illegal wood prods from prod countries in 2008, worth $9 billion. Down 18% by volume from peak in 2004.

Main reason is economic downturn, but efforts to tackle illegal logging and associated trade are a factor – e.g. decreased IL rate in Indonesia and elsewhere and increased effects of demand-side measures (note peak was 2004, earlier than economic crisis).
Exports to sensitive markets (1)

- ‘Sensitive’ markets: Australia, EU, New Zealand, US
- Exports from producer countries to sensitive market share 2000-08:
  - Malaysia shows no change, from a low baseline (c10%)
  - Indonesia shows a slight shift to sensitive markets, from a quite low baseline (c 25%)
  - Ghana reveals a dramatic fall (80%-40%), due to plywood exports to Nigeria
  - Cameroon’s share is also falling (90%-70%), due to logs going to China (though these could moving to sensitive markets indirectly)
  - Brazil has high levels of trade to sensitive markets which remained roughly steady (c75%)
Exports to sensitive markets (2)

- Survey results indicate that in all producer countries larger concessionaires and companies linked to sensitive markets have already taken some action.
- Smaller concessionaires and companies with fewer links to sensitive markets have not taken as much action but are under some pressure to act.
More information

www.illegal-logging.info/indicators

Launch: 23 June