

Fraud at FSC Briefing - List of References

All links working as of 15th October 2025 – Earthsight has pdf backups of pages - contact info@earthsight.org.uk

[1] FSC, “Unveiling FSC's Global Consumer Recognition Study”, 15 June 2023, available at <https://fsc.org/en/fsc-global-consumer-recognition-study>

[2] Ibid

[3] EIA, “The Lie Behind the Ply”, 30 June 2021, Press Release available at <https://eia.org/press-releases/20210630-lie-behind-the-ply-report-pr/>; Full Report available at <https://static.us.eia.org/pdfs/EIA-LieBehindThePly.pdf>

[4] WWF, “FSC disassociates from Schweighofer, following WWF complaint”, 17 February 2017, available at <https://wwf.panda.org/es/?292650/FSC-disassociates-from-Schweighofer-following-WWF-complaint>

[5] Biomass Project, “5 The Largest Wood Pellets Producers Today”, 4 June 2018, available at <https://biomassproject.blogspot.com/2018/06/5-largest-wood-pellets-producers-today.html>, lists Vietnamese firm An Viet Phat as the fifth largest in the world. FSC blocked the company in October 2022 for making false claims (<https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/general-news/fsc-blocks-an-viet-phat-energy-for-making-false-claims-on-large-volumes-of>) . The company was supposed to have been blacklisted for 3.5 years but they were allowed to return in December 2023, just 14 months later (<https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/fsc-lifts-the-blockage-on-an-viet-phat-energy>)

[6] Yale Environment, “Greenwashed Timber”, 20 February 2018, available at <https://e360.yale.edu/features/greenwashed-timber-how-sustainable-forest-certification-has-failed>

EG re cases in China, Peru and Romania uncovered by EIA in 2015-16 ““We didn’t mean to go after FSC,” says David Gehl, that group’s Eurasia programs coordinator. FSC just kept turning up in the same places as a lot of illegal logging, he says.”

[7] Based on statistics regarding FSC obtained from FSC Connect Database, as of 12 October 2025, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/monitoring-fscs-reach>

[8] Which, “Testing finds some bamboo toilet paper actually made with wood”, 27 March 2024, available at <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/which-testing-finds-some-bamboo-toilet-paper-actually-made-with-wood-apn2u4Y7Pfd>

[9] FSC, “FSC blocks Chinese toilet paper company for making false claims”, 30 October 2024, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/fsc-blocks-chinese-toilet-paper-company-for-making-false-claims>

[10] FSC, “New investigation into certified takeaway food container supply chains”, 23 June 2025, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/new-investigation-into-certified-takeaway-food-container-supply>

[11] Checks of the FSC certificate database show these terminations happened in Dec 2023 and Apr 2024 and were of two subsidiaries of manufacturer HappyPack, which has a video on its website saying that it has “long term and stable business partnerships with many branded companies, such as Disney and Coca-Cola” <http://www.happypack.com.cn/Workshop.htm> ; <https://youtu.be/KPkTBb5v8fE?si=Z8UTK-bOJdYU9S-7&t=99>. Video posted on Youtube 29 October 2024

[12] FSC, “Preliminary Results of the Eurasia Birch Wood Panel Investigation”, 15 April 2025, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/preliminary-results-of-the-eurasia-birch-wood-panel-investigation> ;

FSC, “Initial Insights from an Analysis of Birch Plywood Supply Chains”, 2 September 2024, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/initial-insights-from-an-analysis-of-birch-plywood-supply-chains>

[13] FSC, “Transaction Verification in Asia Wood Pellets Supply Chain”, 23 March 2021, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/transaction-verification-in-asia-wood-pellets-supply-chain>

[14] FSC, “Integrity of wood pellets supply chains at risk”, 13 January 2023, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/integrity-of-wood-pellets-supply-chains-at-risk>

[15] FSC, “FSC blocks An Viet Phat Energy for making false claims on large volumes of wood pellets”, 18 October 2022, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/general-news/fsc-blocks-an-viet-phat-energy-for-making-false-claims-on-large-volumes-of>

[16] FSC, “Transaction Verification in Mangifera and Dalbergia Supply Chains”, 30 June 2020, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Transaction%20Verification%20in%20Mangifera%20and%20Dalbergia%20Supply%20Chains.pdf>

[17] FSC, “Mangifera and Dalbergia investigation reveals integrity concerns in India”, 4 November 2022, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/general-news/mangifera-and-dalbergia-investigation-reveals-integrity-concerns-in-india>

[18] FSC, “Transaction Verification in Calophyllum Plywood Veneer Supply Chains”, 2 July 2019, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Transaction%20Verification%20in%20Calophyllum%20Plywood%20and%20Veneer%20Supply%20Chains.pdf>

[19] FSC, “Action on Potential Fraud in Plywood Supply Chains”, 4 January 2021, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/action-on-potential-fraud-in-plywood-supply-chains>

[20] FSC, “Transaction Verification in Paulownia Supply Chains”, 19 February 2019, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Transaction%20Verification%20in%20Paulownia%20Supply%20Chains.pdf>

[21] FSC, “FSC acts on Potential Fraud in Paulownia Wood Supply Chains”, 6 December 2019, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/FSC%20Acts%20on%20Potential%20Fraud%20in%20Paulownia%20Wood%20Supply%20Chain.pdf>

[22] Preferred by Nature, “Former FSC Integrity Director: 20-30% of claims are false - and FSC is looking away”, 8 October 2025, available at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/news/former-fsc-integrity-director-20-30-claims-are-false-and-fsc-looking-away>

[23] FSC, “Ensuring the integrity of FSC® charcoal supply chains”, December 2019, available at https://fsc.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/FSC_integrity_effort_charcoal_supply_chain_new.pdf

[24] FSC, “FSC Suspends Ukrainian Charcoal Certificate Holders”, 22 August 2019, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/FSC%20Suspends%20Ukrainian%20Charcoal%20Certificate%20Holders.pdf>

[25] Floor Daily, “FSC Bans DuChateau from Certification; DuChateau Responds”, 31 July 2018, available at <https://www.floordaily.net/flooring-news/fsc-bans-duchateau-from-certification-indefinitely> ;

FSC, “FSC Suspends Two Certificate Holders Following Investigation”, 18 June 2018, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/FSC%20Suspends%20Two%20Certificate%20Holders%20Following%20Investigation.pdf>.

Note: FSC also announced a wider TV loop investigation into white oak flooring, covering many more companies, but the results were never published.

[26] FSC, “Transaction Verification To Be Introduced in Bamboo Supply Chains”, 30 June 2017, available at <https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Transaction%20verification%20to%20be%20introduced%20in%20bamboo%20supply%20chains.pdf>

[27] FSC, “Integrity Risks Identified in Bamboo Supply Chains”, 6 September 2024, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/integrity-risks-identified-in-bamboo-supply-chains>

[28] EIA, “The Lie Behind the Ply”, 30 June 2018, Press Release available at <https://eia.org/press-releases/20210630-lie-behind-the-ply-report-pr/> ; Full Report available at <https://static.us.eia.org/pdfs/EIA-LieBehindThePly.pdf>;

FSC, “Action on Potential Fraud in Plywood Supply Chains”, 4 January 2021, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/action-on-potential-fraud-in-plywood-supply-chains>

[29] Earthsight, “Blood-stained Birch”, 29 January 2025, available at <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/blood-stained-birch>

[30] The Guardian, “Sanctioned Russian and Belarusian wood smuggled into UK, study suggests”, 22 April 2025, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/23/russia-belarus-sanctions-wood-smuggling-uk-illegal-imports-laundering-certification-fsc-pefc-research-aoe>

[31] World Forest ID, “Unlocking transparency, exposing material risk: Key findings from timber market study”, April 2025, available at https://learn.worldforestid.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WFID_InsightBriefing_April_2025_v10b-3.pdf

The paper states that 52 certified samples were tested, of which 88 per cent were FSC and 14 per cent PEFC, implying 44 FSC samples and 8 PEFC samples. The paper also says 46% of those 52 samples were found to have incorrect origin claims, implying 24 false origin certified samples; even if all 8 PEFC samples were false origin, this would still leave a minimum of 16 false origin FSC samples (36 per cent of the 44 FSC samples). The maximum FSC false origin rate is 55 per cent.

[32] FSC certificate database shows mills run by High Hope Arser, operated by its subsidiaries, have been recertified during 2024-25,
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaN2U3NGMyNWVtZTAxNS00MzVhLWExNmMtOTlhZjdiYjQ4MWNkIiwidCI6IjE5NGU2OWRiLWVmNjUtNDk2Yi05NmE5LTvkNTZiZWVxZDI1MSIsImMiOiI9>

[33] FSC, “FSC blocks An Viet Phat Energy for making false claims on large volumes of wood pellets”, 18 October 2025, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/general-news/fsc-blocks-an-viet-phat-energy-for-making-false-claims-on-large-volumes-of>

[34] FSC, “FSC lifts the blockage on An Viet Phat Energy”, 23 January 2024, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/fsc-lifts-the-blockage-on-an-viet-phat-energy>

[35] EIA, “The Lie Behind the Ply”, 30 June 2018, Press Release available at <https://eia.org/press-releases/20210630-lie-behind-the-ply-report-pr/> ; <https://static.us.eia.org/pdfs/EIA-LieBehindThePly.pdf>; Full Report available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/action-on-potential-fraud-in-plywood-supply-chains>

[36] Based on 5kg lumpwood charcoal being sold in UK at retail price of £9.89 as of 14 Oct 2025

[37] IKEA, "IKEA Discovers Misconduct at a Supplier Related to Wood-origin Documents", 2021, available at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210623185444/https://about.ikea.com/en/about-us/our-view-on/ikea-discovers-misconduct-at-a-supplier-related-to-wood-origin-documents>

[38] IKEA, "Annual Sustainability Report FY 2020", 2021, available at

https://www.ikea.com/se/sv/files/pdf/c3/e2/c3e2b54b/ikea_sustainability_report_fy20.pdf

Calculated from total wood use figure of 19 million cubic metres round wood equivalent

[39] DEFRA, "UKTR report: 2022 to 2025", 12 August 2025, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/timber-regulations-reports/uktr-report-2022-to-2025>

[40] UK was 6.8% of IKEA global sales in 2024; implies 393,632 items of furniture worldwide affected

[41] FSC, "Facts and Figures on FSC growth and Markets", 25 February 2008, available at

http://www.unece.lsu.edu/certificate_eccos/documents/2008/ce08_24.pdf

[42] Preferred by Nature, "Former FSC Integrity Director: 20-30% of claims are false - and FSC is looking away", 8 October 2025, available at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/news/former-fsc-integrity-director-20-30-claims-are-false-and-fsc-looking-away>

[43] FSC, "FSC Statement on Integrity Safeguards and Recent Criticism", 10 October 2025, available at <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/integrity-and-disputes/fsc-statement-on-integrity-safeguards-and-recent-criticism>

[44] FSC Trace, available at <https://fsc.org/en/fsctrace>

[45] FSC, "FSC International retires OCP and launches new data formatting tool", 22 January 2019, available at <https://ca.fsc.org/ca-en/newsfeed/fsc-international-retires-ocp-and-launches-new-data-formatting-tool>

[46] Preferred by Nature, "Former FSC Integrity Director: 20-30% of claims are false - and FSC is looking away", 8 October 2025, available at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/news/former-fsc-integrity-director-20-30-claims-are-false-and-fsc-looking-away>

[47] FSC General Assembly Motion 30/2025, 'A roadmap for a digital information and volume control system to improve the integrity of FSC claims (previously, control on false claims on FSC products)', as amended 19 September 2025

[48] FSC, "FSC Consumer Insights 2021", November 2021, available at

https://fsc.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/FSC%20Consumer%20Insights_External%20deck_v6.pdf

[49] FSC, “Unveiling FSC’s Global Consumer Recognition Study”, 15 June 2023, available at <https://fsc.org/en/fsc-global-consumer-recognition-study>

[50] As of 16 October 2025, just four Forest Management certificate holders and eight CoC certificate holders had obtained Regulatory Module certification (Source: FSC Certificates Public dashboard)

[51] Preferred by Nature, “Is the greatest threat to FSC its own members?”, 6 October 2025, available at <https://www.preferredbynature.org/news/greatest-threat-fsc-its-own-members>

[52] Earthsight, “Open letter: FSC is no longer fit for purpose and must urgently reform”, 25 October 2021, available at <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/blog-open-letter-fsc-no-longer-fit-for-purpose-and-must-urgently-reform>

[53] Earthsight, “IKEA’s House of Horrors”, 15 July 2021, available at <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/investigations/ikea-house-of-horrors#group-section-4-Laundering-machine-78Ecl5ewlt>

[54] Mongabay, “Chain of custody nonsense from FSC & PEFC: protecting income streams rather than the world’s forests”, 10 July 2023, available at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/07/chain-of-custody-nonsense-from-fsc-pefc-protecting-income-streams-rather-than-the-worlds-forests/>

[55] Earthsight, “Flatpacked Forests”, 23 June 2020, available at <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/flatpackedforests-en>

[56] Earthsight, “Risky Business”, 21 October 2025, available at <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/risky-business>

[57] WWF, “2020 Analysis of the EU Charcoal Market”, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346569778_2020_Analysis_of_the_EU_Charcoal_Market