

*Questionnaire Survey  
on Ecologically Ethical  
Wood Products Procurement*

Greenpeace Japan

Friends of the Earth Japan

WWF Japan

Global Environmental Forum

Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN)



This report was created with a support of WWF-Nikko Green Investors Fund.

## Background and method of the questionnaire survey

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A group of five environmental NGOs - Greenpeace Japan, Friends of the Earth Japan, WWF Japan, Global Environmental Forum, and Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN) have issued a 'Joint NGO Recommendation on Ecologically Ethical Paper Products Procurement' in October 2004, and a 'Joint NGO Recommendation on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement' in February 2006. The group has been appealing the need for actions from the consumer side in order to conserve forests in the world from destruction, and working on Japanese companies and governments to develop ecologically ethical procurement policies.

As part of this activity the group conducted the "Questionnaire on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement" survey from April 3 to May 15, 2006. The target of the survey includes companies that five NGOs have been working on, wood related companies such as sawmilling, plywood and construction material manufacturers and traders, wood products consumers such as housing and building construction, furniture and home improvement stores, and prefecture and city governments.

The purposes and the main questions of the survey are as follows:

### [Purposes]

- To understand the present situation about actions taken by companies and local governments regarding wood products procurement
- To examine the way to promote actions toward sustainable use of wood products

### [Main questions]

- On the "Joint NGO Recommendation on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement"
- Understanding of supply-chain of wood and wood products
- Ecologically ethical wood procurement actions
- Procurement policy of wood products
- Future procurement actions considering about environment and society of the logging sites

## Summary of result of the questionnaire survey

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164 valid replies were obtained for the questionnaire (collection rate: 26%). Industry sectors large number of replies was obtained are building construction (26), housing construction (16), construction material trade (12), other manufacturing (9), plywood manufacturing (8) and general trade (6) from private industries. Also 33 replies from prefectures and 22 from cities were obtained.

Regarding the "Joint NGO Recommendation on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement", 79% of the total organizations were "favorable" or "generally favorable", 12% were "partly favorable" and 9% were "no idea" or no answer. There were no organizations replied "not favorable" (Q1-1).

Regarding supply-chain of wood and wood products, percentage of organizations that replied understanding "all" or "almost all" of the wood information were 47% for logging country, 17% for logging site, 53% for wood species and 20% for forest type. On the other hand percentage of organizations that replied "little understanding" or "not understanding" were 38% for logging country, 63% for logging site, 28% for wood species and 62% for forest type (Q2-2). Regarding understanding on the supply route of wood, 28% replied "all the supply route" or "almost all the route", and 64% replied "only immediate suppliers", showing similar result to the result of understanding of logging site (Q2-3). Regarding way to know the supply-chain, 51% replied "ask to suppliers", 10% replied "check for oneself", 5% replied "ask to third party" (Q2-1).

Percentage of the organizations replied "taking actions" concerning ecologically ethical wood procurement were 40% for confirming legality, 30% for avoiding destruction of High Conservation Value Forest, 23% for avoiding area with conflict with local people or stakeholders, 24% for avoiding forest management with great impacts to the original ecosystem, 30% for promoting use of certified forest products and 52% for promoting use of recycled wood (Q3-1). However only 15% of total organizations disclosed the progress of these actions (Q3-3).

19 organizations (12%) replied that the organization has ever stopped purchasing of wood products considering about forest ecosystem. 9 organizations stopped purchasing ramin, which was listed on the CITES Appendix II (Q3-4).

Regarding documented wood procurement policy that includes considerations about environment and society of the logging sites, 38 organizations (23%) replied that the organization has such a policy (Q4-1). Divided by sectors local governments (36%) are higher percentage than private companies (17%).

When checked the procurement policies of the 38 organizations by attached documents to the replies or their websites, organizations that have only an environmental policy without clear description on wood procurement are included in this figure. Number of organizations that have any descriptions Joint NGO Recommendation urges is 14 for confirming legality (including 12 local governments) and one for avoiding destruction of High Conservation Value Forest (phasing out of wood from primary forests in specific areas). Following the recently revised guideline of the Green Purchasing Law by the central

government many local governments also revised their procurement policies. However the descriptions only include confirming legality.

11 out of the 38 organizations (29%) replied that the organization has a concrete action plan under the wood procurement policy that includes time frames and numerical targets (Q4-3).

Regarding future procurement actions considering about environment and society of the logging sites, 62% replied that the organization will take action for confirming legality, 51% for promoting use of certified forest products and 47% for promoting use of recycled wood (Q5-1).

47% of the organizations replied that the organization has a plan to develop or revise a procurement policy that includes these actions (Q5-2). Classified by industry sector high percentages were seen in plywood manufacturing (7 out of 8 companies; 88%) and other manufacturing (7 out of 9 companies; 78%). Also analysis by small population showed high figure in construction material manufacturing (3 out of 3 companies) and furniture manufacturing (4 out of 5 companies).

On the other hand 30% replied that the reason of not having a procurement policy nor a plan to develop one is "lack of information and support measures", 17% replied "hard to secure human resource" and "no idea on the method" and 15% replied "not needed" (Q5-3).

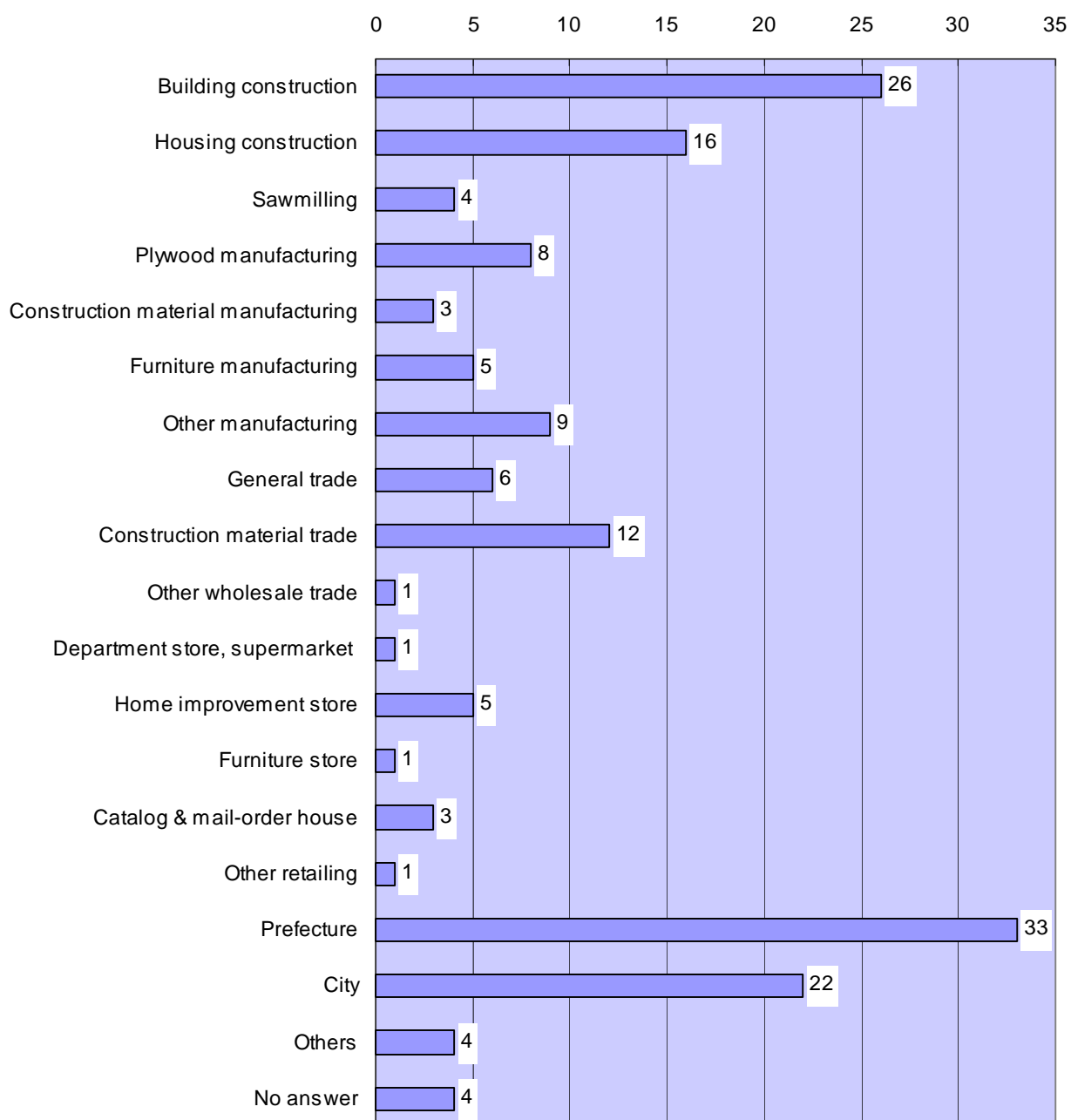
# Result of the Questionnaire on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement

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Number of questionnaire sent: 631

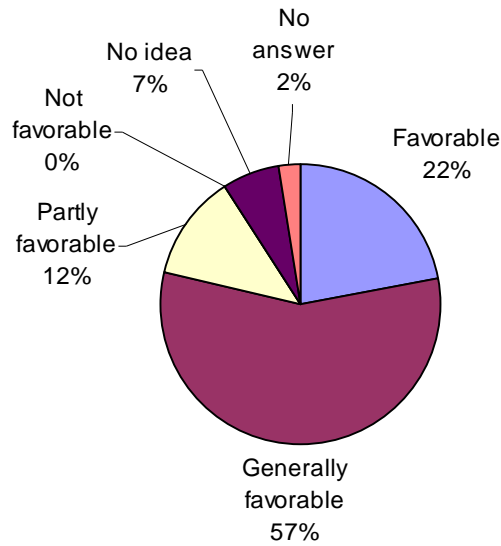
Number of valid replies: 164 (Collection rate: 26%)

Industry sector of the respondent organizations (Figures are numbers of organizations)



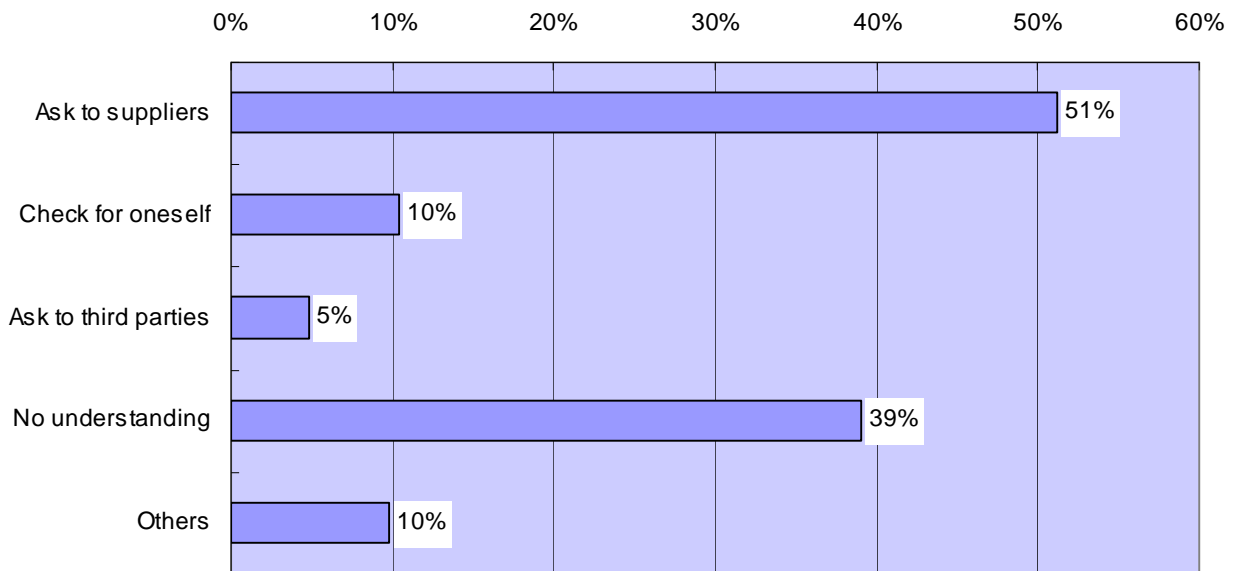
Q1. On the "Joint NGO Recommendation on Ecologically Ethical Wood Products Procurement"

[Q1-1] Are you favorable on the drift of this recommendation?

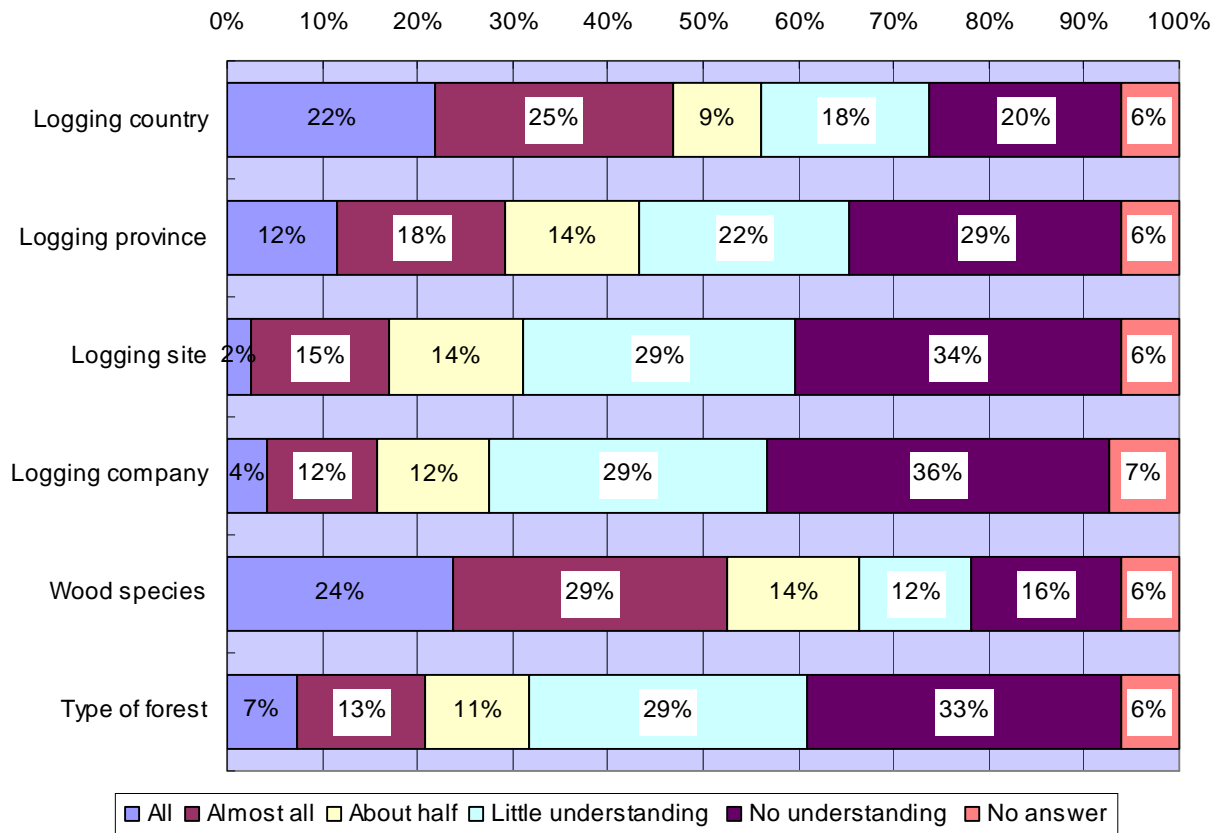


Q2. Understanding of supply-chain of wood and wood products

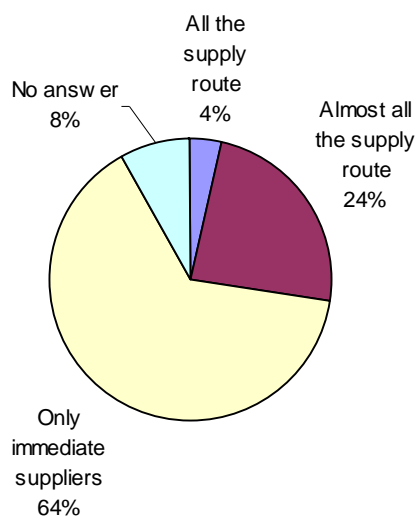
[Q2-1] Do you understand the supply chain of the wood products your organization produces, sells or uses? If you understand the supply chain, how do you know that? (Multiple answers allowed)



[Q2-2] How much do you understand the information below of the wood your organization produces, sells or uses?

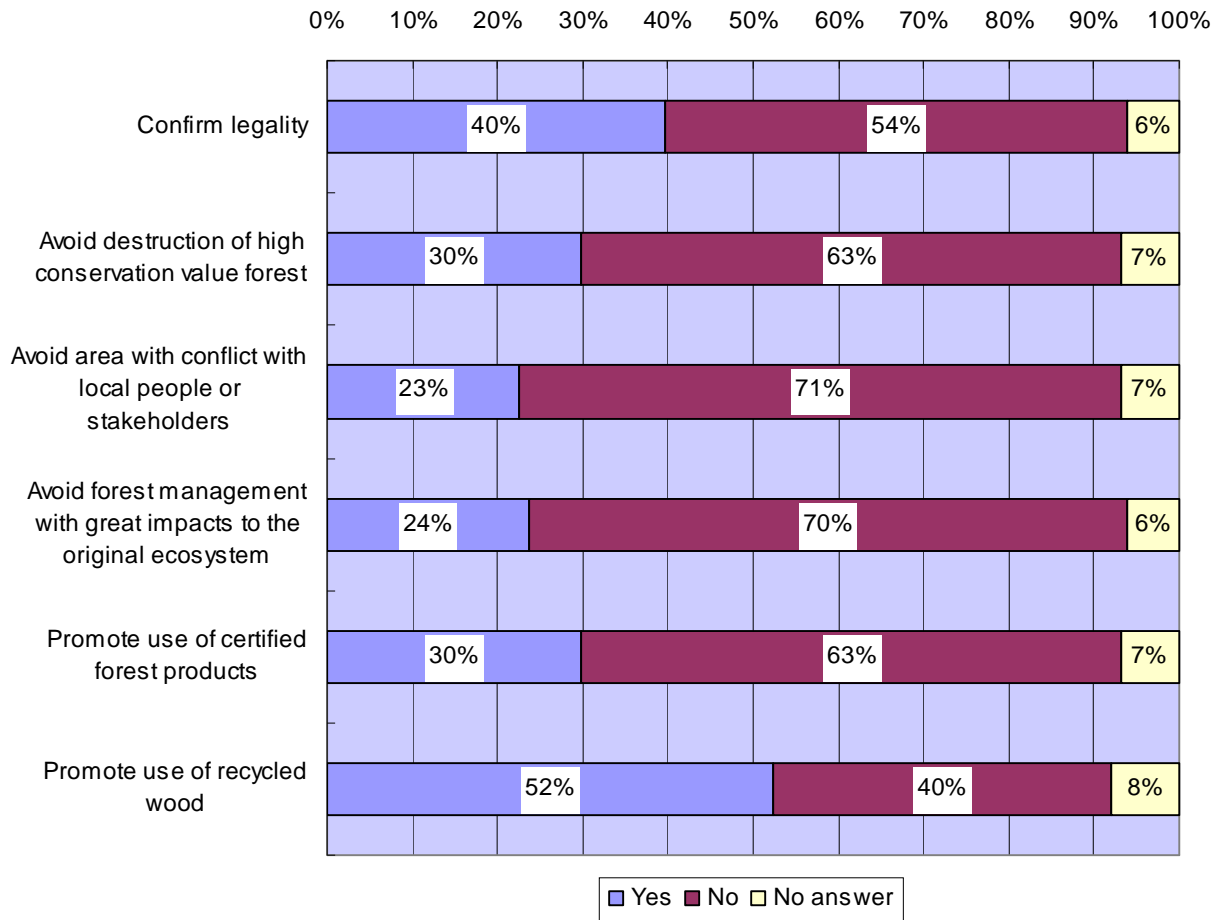


[Q2-3] How much do you understand on the supply route of wood your organization produces, sells or uses?

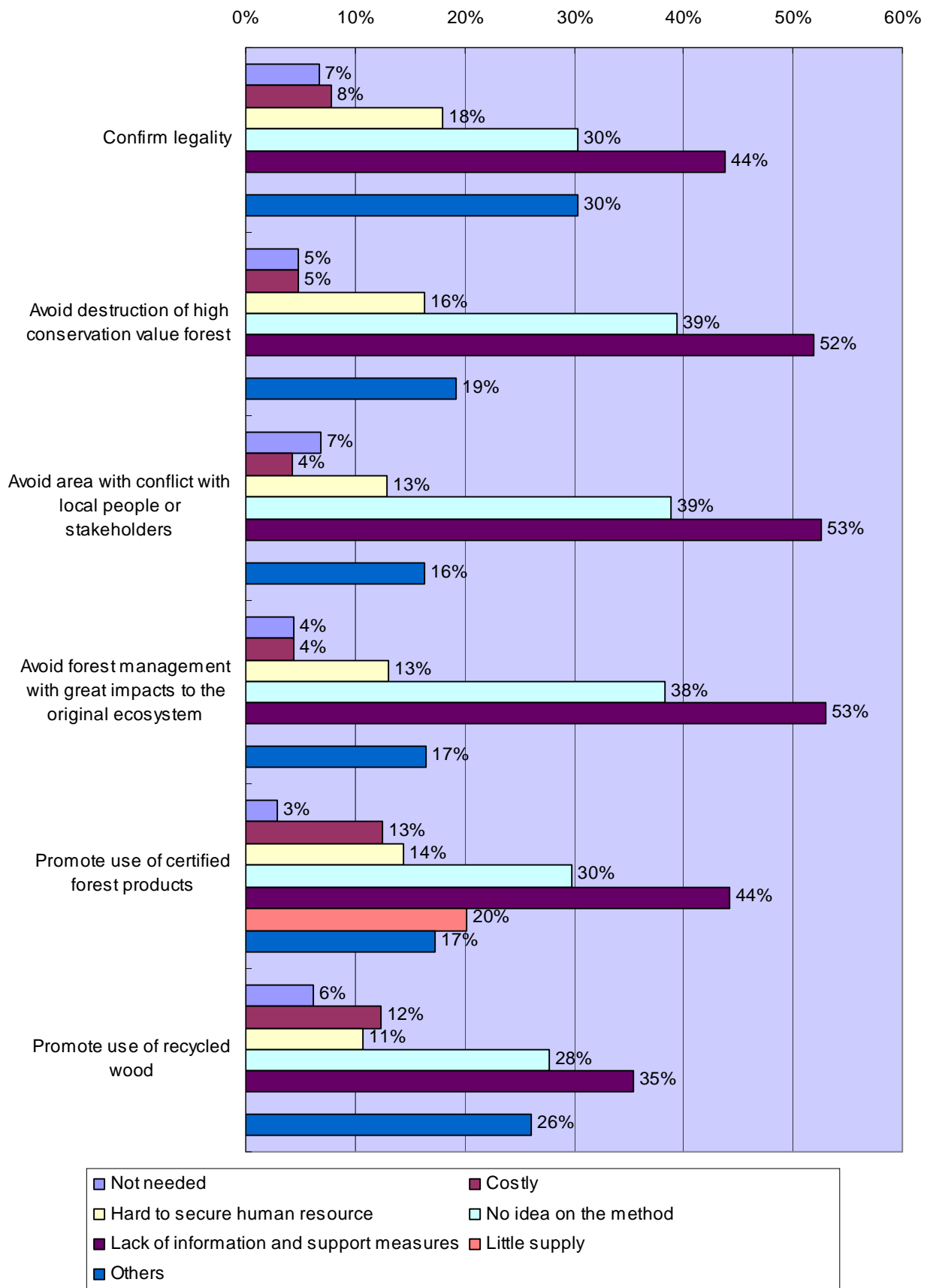


### Q3. Ecologically ethical wood procurement actions

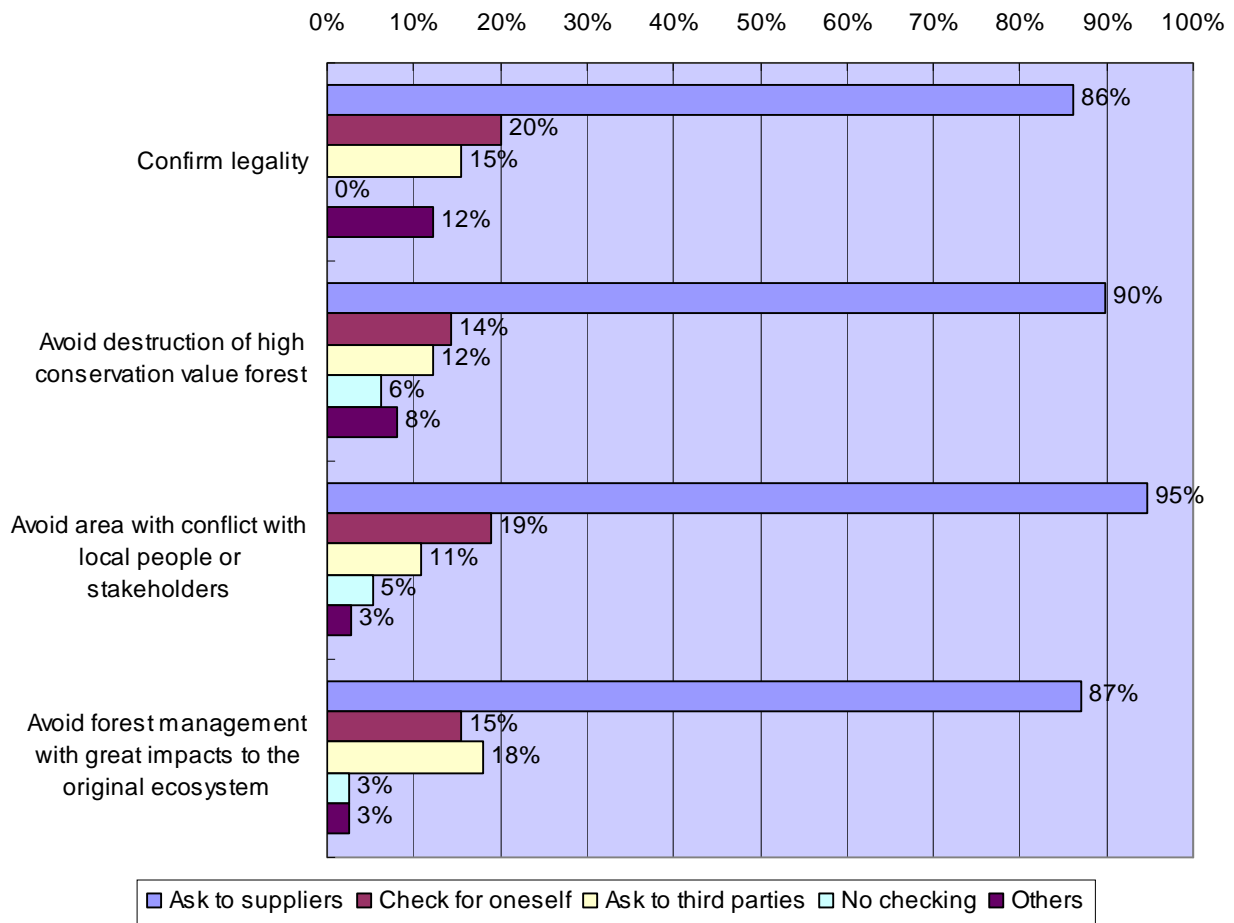
[Q3-1] Is your organization taking actions below concerning ecologically ethical wood procurement? If not taking actions, what are the reasons?



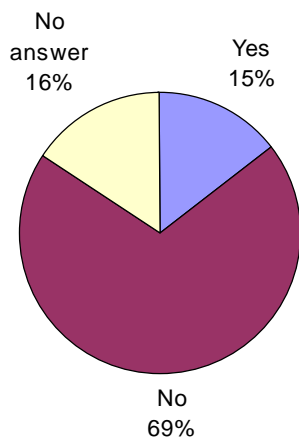
Reasons of not taking actions (Multiple answers allowed):



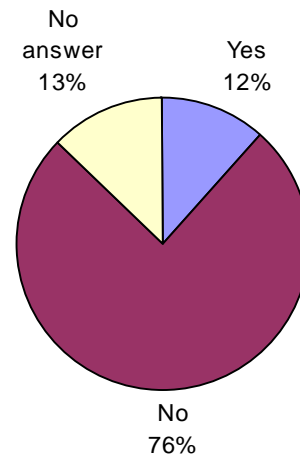
[Q3-2] How do you check the present situation in order to implement each action answered "yes" at Q3-1? (Multiple answers allowed for each item. Population of each item is the number of "yes" answered at Q3-1 respectively.)



[Q3-3] Is the progress of the actions answered at Q3-1 disclosed?

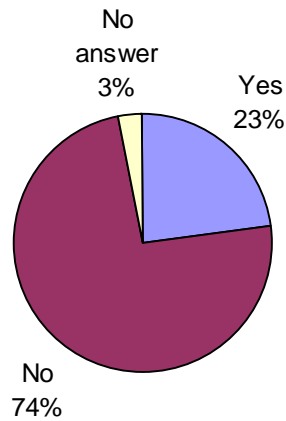


[Q3-4] Has your organization ever stopped purchasing of wood products considering about forest ecosystem?

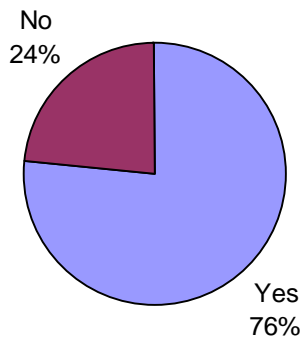


#### Q4. Procurement policy of wood products

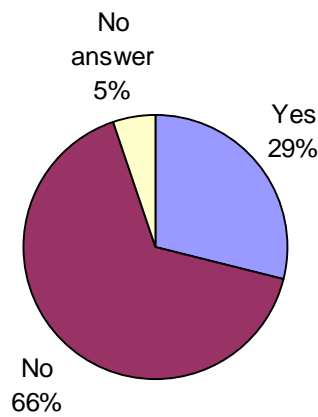
[Q4-1] Does your organization have documented wood procurement policy that includes considerations about environment and society of the logging sites?



[Q4-2] Is the procurement policy disclosed? (Population: 38)

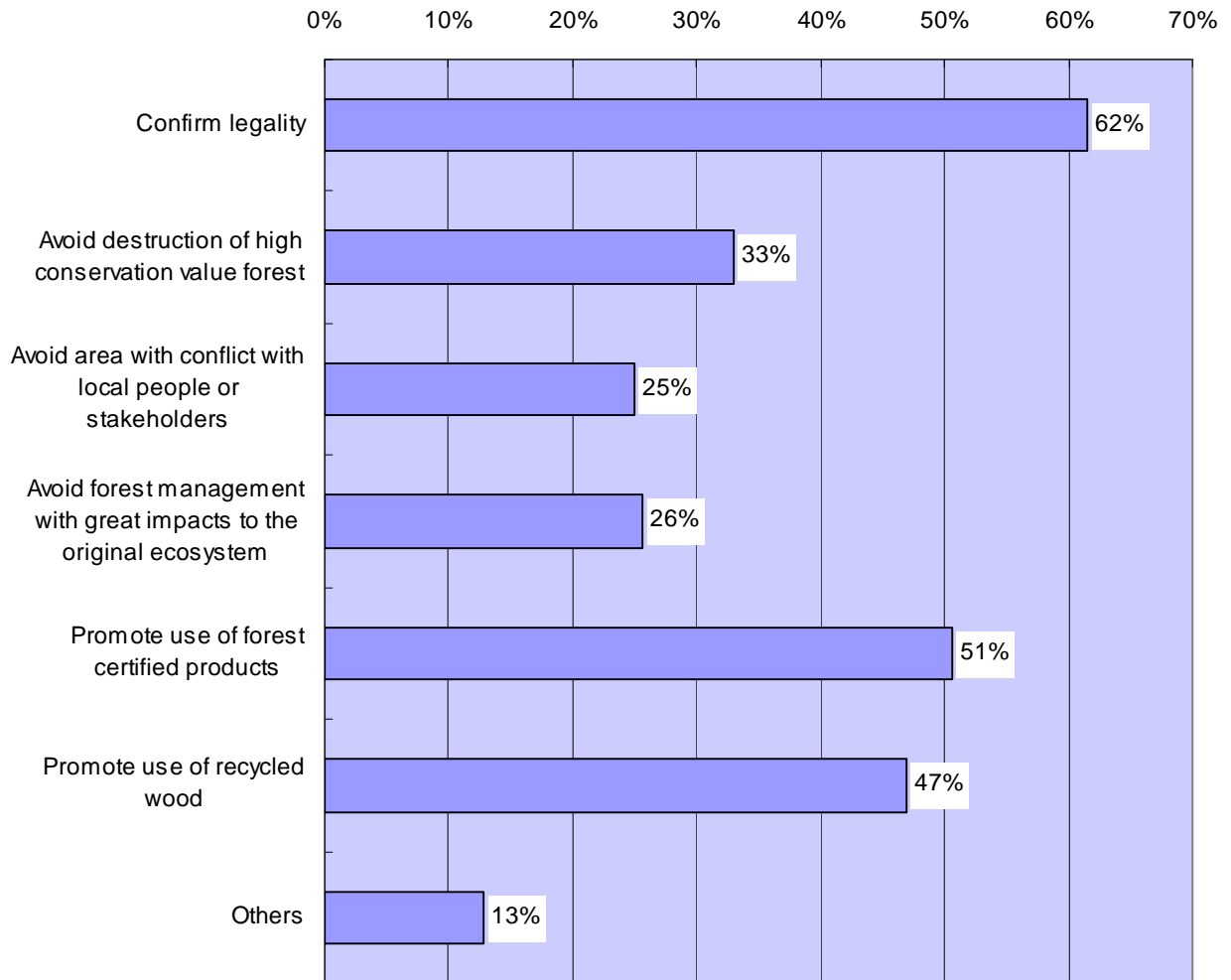


[Q4-3] Does your organization have a concrete action plan under the wood procurement policy that includes time frames and numerical targets? (Population: 38)

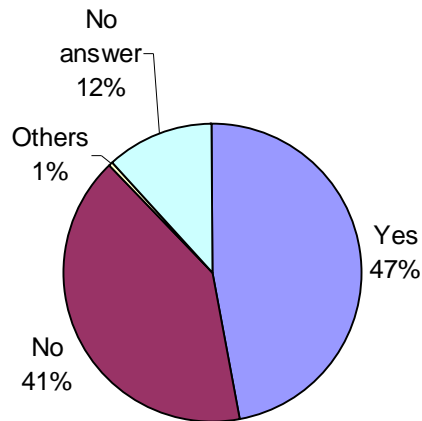


### Q5. Future procurement actions considering about environment and society of the logging sites

[Q5-1] Which actions below will your organization take in the future in order to promote ecologically ethical wood procurement? (Multiple answers allowed)



[Q5-2] Does your organization have a plan to develop or revise a procurement policy that includes actions answered at Q5-1 in the future?



[Q5-3] In case that your organization does not have a procurement policy nor a plan to develop one, what are the reasons? (Multiple answers allowed, Population: 67)

