

# HCV in Russia

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# Issues of adaptation of HCV in Russia

- **The concept was developed outside of Russia, yet Russia has its own nature preservation tradition**
- **The concept of HCV is absent in Russian legislation. In certain points Russian legislation is progressive (nature reserves-Zapovedniks), but in other it is not**
- **Russia ratified the convention on Biodiversity, but did not developed a normative basis for biodiversity conservation in areas leased to the logging companies**
- **Russia has a huge territory and forests are different, therefore, it is hard to develop methodology for designating HCV**
- **WWF, FSC national initiative, FSC national office- special attention to Principle 9 in FSC certification**
- **There are good examples of implementation of HCV in Russia**
- **Handbook for HCVF is ready for publication**

# Problems with HCV in Russia

- **Lack of information on many of the forested areas**
- **Minimalist interpretation of certain types of HCV**
- **Lack of accepted principles of management of HCV**
- **Russian legislation creates problems**

# HCV-1 in Russia, FSC national standard

**HCVF-1 (international, national, regional significance) – territories that are on the map of WWF eco-regions Global 200**

**(Olson, Dinerstein, 1998) – 233 most valuable Such eco-regions are in 40 Russian regions (RF European North, Caucasus, Urals, Altai-Sayani, Western Siberia, Chukotka, Kamchatka)**

**Specially protected areas (not leased)**

**Habitat of rear, endemic species, key ornithological regions**

**There is a governmental plan to create in 2010-2020 around 100 new specially protected areas**

**In practice: only 1 FSC certified company with NGO assistance designated HCV-1 in full**

# HCVF-2 in Russia

- HCV-2 valuable forest landscapes of international, national and regional levels
- Old growth forests (Intact forests, Low impact forests)- Atlas Axenov et. al 2003
- Often are leased to logging companies- maps as an informal regulatory tool
- Highly contested concept, disagreement between NGOs and governmental agencies-voluntary moratoriums, consultations with Forest Club NGOs
- In practice: Companies do not know any other HCV-2 except intact forests, often consult with experts that does not agree with the overall concept of intact forest landscapes

# HCV-3 in Russia

- HCV-3 forests that include rare ecosystems
- Approximately half of companies designate HCV-3, most of them do not understand what does it mean
- Often research in the regions have been completed, but companies does not know about it
- Often consult with foresters and not with biologists

# HCV-4 in Russia

- HCV-4 forests with protecting functions (water, soil erosion, fire)
- In Russia this type of forests is usually designated during forest inventory
- FSC national standards demand water protection zones along all waterways

# Social value forests in Russia (HCV-5-6)

- HCV-5 places that are necessary for wellbeing of local population
- HVC-6 places that are important culturally and traditionally
- In Russia HCV-5 and HCV-6 are not separated
- Several stages of designation: a) requests to archeologists, ethnographic museums, research institutions
- b) consultations with local museums, school study circles, local libraries
- C) consultations with local communities
- D) mapping, making maps accessible to public

# Examples and issues related to HCV-5-6

- Some HCV-5-6 are risky to put on the map accessible to public, for example:
- Archeological artifacts (need protection from black archeologists)
- Burial grounds of different types (partisans)-[need protection from black market traders]
- Hunting grounds, bird mating places



# *Places for mushrooms and berries collection.*

- Are a significant source of income for local population
- In Komi Republic- special logging regimes
- In Karelia- more berries on the 3 years old logging plots



# *Hunting grounds*

For indigenous people even  
if they live not on the  
leased territory

Hunting cabin

Hunting societies can have  
the lease at the same  
territory as the logging  
company

Independent local hunters

Hunting tourism



# *Springs, ordinary and secret*

- Those close to the roads often get destroyed
- Often there are youth groups protecting the springs—can help the company





# HCV-5-6 in Russia

- Conflicts usually occur only with hunting grounds of indigenous people
- Not all companies organize consultations with local specialists and communities
- Many difficulties with mapping and making maps accessible to public (scale, geographical maps differ from logging maps, expensive)