



FSC Russian national initiative & office National office

FSC in Russia, achievements and issues, generally and according to HCVF and biodiversity protection

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*High Conservation Value Forests (pristine forests) of the European North of Russia
Approaches to Conservation and Sustainable Use
Syktyvkar 2009*



HCVF and biodiversity in FSC scheme

- **HCVF & biodiversity issues** are corner stone of FSC scheme and have a special place in FSC Global strategy
- HCVF & biodiversity issues are covered by FSC Principles and Criteria, by FSC Controlled wood and related
- In the absence of government regulations implementation of FSC Principle 6 and 9 is largely based on *NGO's propositions and experience*
- Newly approved FSC National standart in combination with special guidance's on HCVF and biodiversity, and risk assessment and monitoring procedures for controlled wood make a framework for FSC certification in Russia



FSC approach to biodiversity and HCVF

Principle 6

- Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest

Principle 9

- Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.



FSC Global strategy

Obj. 1. Provide leadership in advancing globally responsible forest management.

1(a) FSC contributes to maintaining and restoring biodiversity through standard setting and responsible forest management.

- Indicator: FSC makes a positive, measurable contribution to the protection of forest biodiversity as confirmed by independent scientific evaluations and research, and by the actual protection of High Conservation Value Forest areas (HCVF).
- Indicator: FSC measurably contributes to the conservation of at least 20% of the forest within each of the remaining large natural forest blocks under threat (e.g. Amazon, Congo, Southeast Asia, Canada & Russia).



FSC Global strategy

- 1 (b) *The full range of forest products and services are maintained as part of the overall landscape.*
- Indicator: FSC certification is recognized and used as a tool for evaluating all types of non-timber products and ecological services from forests (e.g. Carbon sequestration or watershed management).

Obj. 2. Ensure equitable access to the benefits of FSC systems

2 (a) *the FSC will promote the protection and management of forest biodiversity across all forest types.*

- Indicator: Remaining large blocks of well connected forest ecosystems are better represented in the FSC portfolio in proportion to their global cover.



Global importance of Russian forests:

- One of three mega-areas of intact forests in the World (along with Canada, Brazil, and Congo basin)
- Russia accounts for 25% of the world's large massifs of intact forests
- Russian boreal forests has highest biodiversity and endemism among the other boreal forests in the World
- Sink for 15% of global CO₂ emissions





Main issues in HCVF protection in Russia

FSC certification requires identification, precautionary management regimes and protection of most valuable HCVF's.

HCVF concept is not well supported by existing legislation, forestry regulations and dominating industrial planning in forest sector.

Majority of HCVF identification and management issues are coming **from NGO's** and to some extent forest researches.

Implementation of precautionary management regimes in HCVF's **is the key** problem in Russia, as clear cutting is still dominating

Protection might be *temporarily* (moratoriums) or *long-term* (through PA's, OZU and other official forest protection categories and management regimes).



HCVF and legislation

Only HCVF 4 is relatively well identified and managed through official state forestry

HCVF 1, 3 and to some extent 5 and 6 are often mixed with PA's concept by forest companies and some CB's

HCVF 2 – its concept is most conflicting with existing forestry regulations

Ideal solution:

- Identification of HCVF through state funded inventory in cooperation with NGOs and their inclusion in the regional forest plans and reglaments
- Protection of most important HCVF as PA's, OZU
- Implementation of special management regimes (eg. tested in Model forests) to HCVF's



Achievements in HCVF protection in Russia

Karelia – nearly all intact forest massifs (HCVF2) and categories 1,3 of HCVF 1,3 were included in regional forest plan and territorial scheme of development as planned PA's.

- Some HCVF's on model territories were protected as OZU (especially protective sites)

Archangelsk – protection of HCVF mainly through voluntary moratoriums linked with FSC certification, as well via perspective PA's (Dvinskoy massif)

Komi – protection of virgin forests (HCVF2) as OZU as a result of state forest inventory. *Current status?*

- Conservation of other HCVF categories in Komi model forest



Intact forest conservation through FSC related voluntary moratoriums

Archangelsk ~ 100.000 ha

Dammers, Svetlozersk Les, Solombala Les, Maloshuika, Karpogory and Ust-Pokshenga

Karelia ~ 60.000 ha

Stora Enso, UPM, Segezha, Swedwood and Lendersky LPH

Komi ~ 100.000 ha

Komi model forest and Mondi Syktyvkar LPK

Problem: only temporary solution, very few PA's established



Biodiversity protection regimes and small size HCVF

On Federal level – new Harvesting rules permits some biodiversity friendly activities: deadwood, key biotops, including large ones, close to HCVF's

On regional level – instructions of biodiversity conservation

- Karelia (companies level)
- Archangelsk (regional level)
- Komi (company level + model forest management plan)
- Vologda (regional level)
- Kirov (regional level)



FSC Russia plans

- Training for companies in new FM standart (phone)
- Seminar/Training for CB's in new FM standart
- 1-2 meetings in 2009 between NI, NO, ASI and CB's, focused on quality of certification
- Mailing of HC VF and biodiversity guidelines and publications to certificate holders
- Training for certification centres in HC VF and biodiversity
- All environment NGO's complaints are processed in priority manner
- FSC / ASI will increase the level of surveillance of CB's, operating in Russia in 2009-2010