

HCVF and HCV concept

In Russia

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R u s s i a

- **Huge country, zones from arctic desert and tundra to steppes and hemideserts, several mountainous systems**
- **Very diverse condition and situation from North to South and from West to East**
- **Extensive and various knowledge and experience in conservation biology and nature protection**
- **Lack of knowledge in many regions and many fields**

HCVF National Interpretation in FSC process

- **Started in 1999, when the decision to develop the standard has been taken**
- **Russian experts already had extensive knowledge and experience in HCV issues**
- **In 2006 Russian National Framework FSC Standard adopted by National Working Group**

HCVF National Interpretation in National FSC Standard

- **HCVF 1 –Ecoregions Global 200 (WWF Int.), Biodiversity Hotspots (CI), Protected Areas, Wetlands (Ramsar areas), Important Bird Areas (about 1100 defined in Russia), Important Plant Areas (just started)**
- **HCVF 2 – Intact Forest Landscapes (International and National level) and HCVF 2 of Regional level in some regions where defined**
- **HCVF 3 – very little information, just some regional research**
- **HCVF 4 – several kinds of Protected Forest Plots (according to Russian Forest Legislation)**
- **HCVF 5 & 6 – very little information, just some kinds of Protected Forest Plots and Protected Areas (according to Russian Legislation)**

FSC Certified Forests in Russia



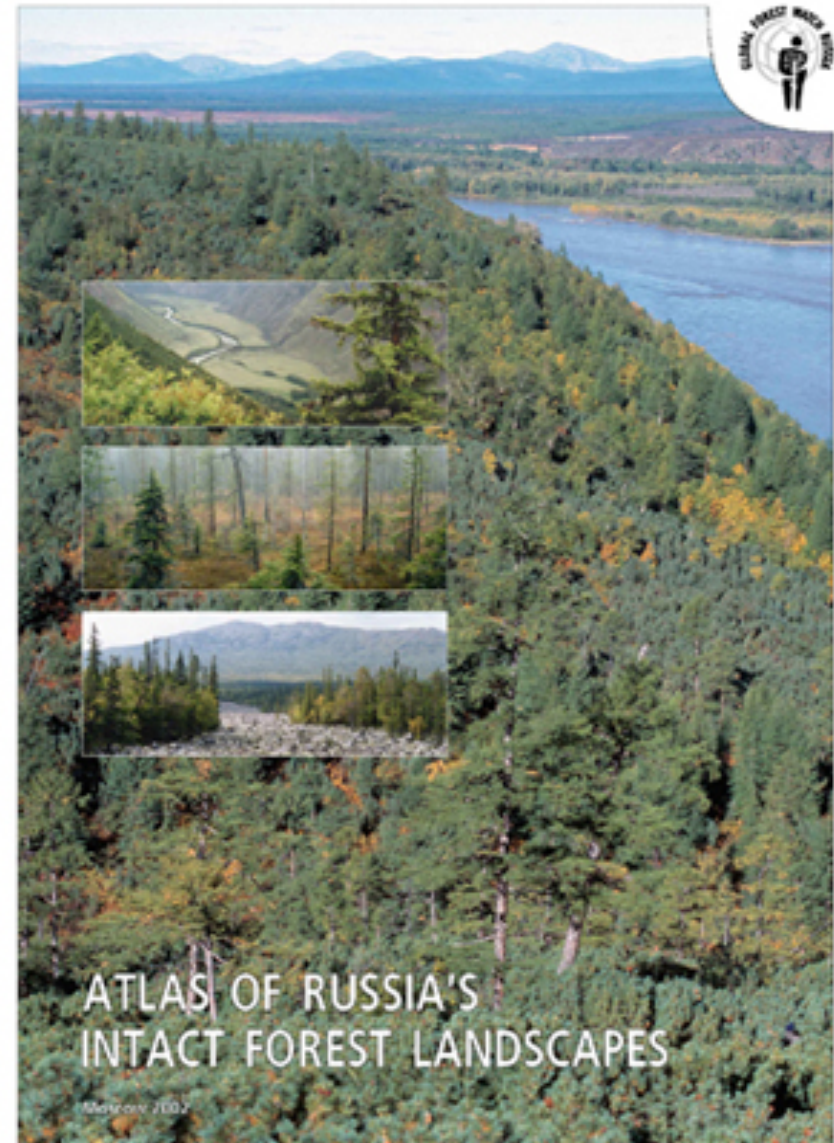
- Issued certificates
- Areas in process of certification

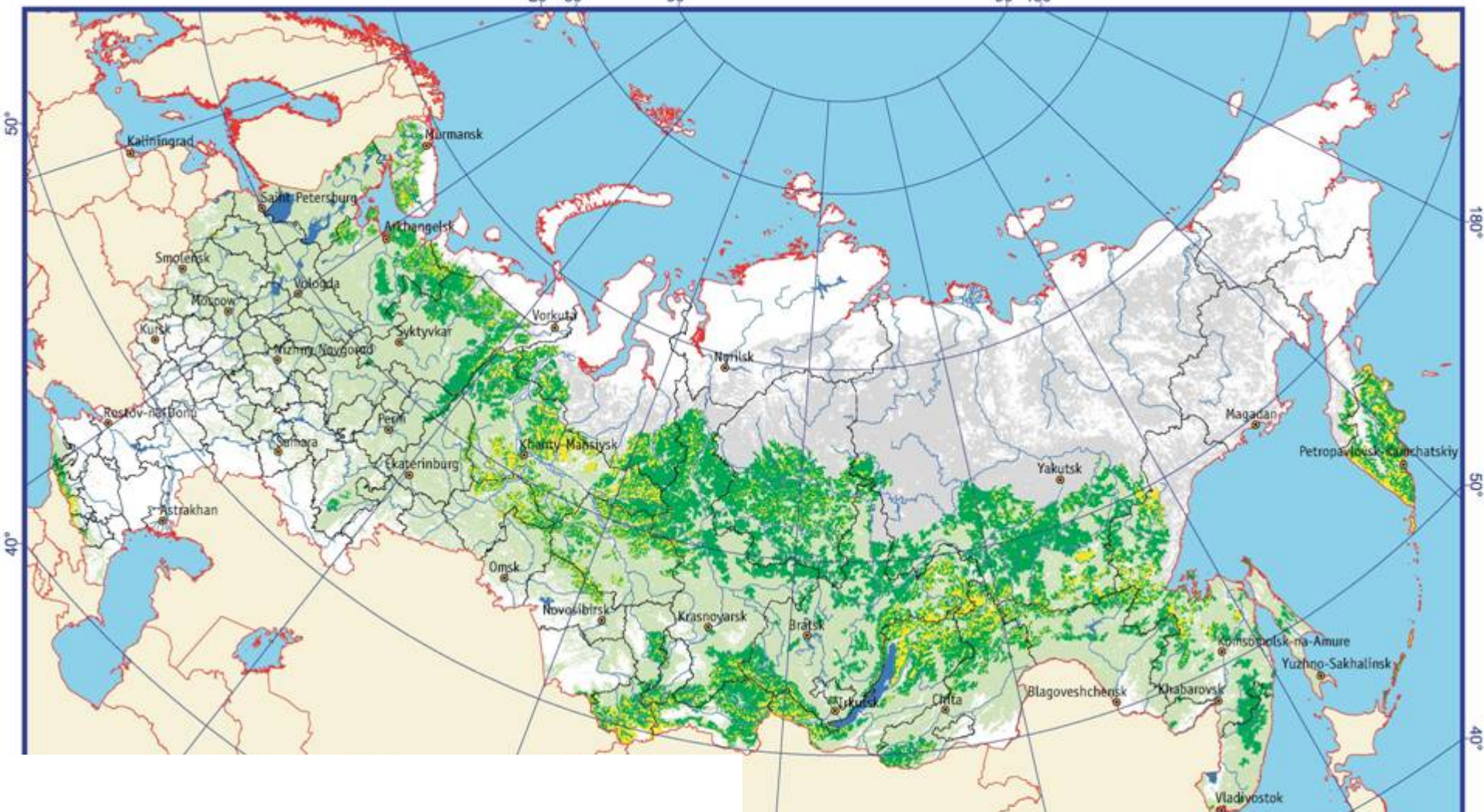
Total area of FSC Certified forests is about 13 mln ha, it is about 10% of Russian Federal Forests. The process is hold up by Federal Forest Agency

Intact Forest Landscapes

GFW, BCC, SEU, Greenpeace, 2002

- area greater than 50 thousand ha
- it is not broken or fragmented by infrastructure
- no signs of significant transformation caused by human activity
- it has a natural fire regime
- it is situated within the forest zone





- **Total area is about 289 mln ha, represented in 39 regions**
- **A number of other companies do not buy wood from IFL**
- **Maps of IFL are used in FSC certification**
- **Agreements on voluntary protection of some IFL are reached**

Global Importance of Russian Forests

- **One of four 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 have highest biodiversity and endemism among other boreal forests in the World**

Russian protected areas

- **The system was established about 90 years ago**
- **Federal Protected areas: Zapovedniks – 101, National Parks – 36, other – 70; Governmental prospective plan up to 2010 exists, includes about 15 new areas**
- **Local protected areas: exist in all regions, about 15 regions have governmental programs of developing of PA systems**
- **The main ideas are very close to the essence of HCV concept, but the idea of representativity was in use since 1950th**
- **Except HCV protection, the idea of representativity and ecological networking is in use in some regions**

Using the HCV concept in other fields: some other examples outside FSC process

- Komi: governmental regulations concerning virgin forest massifs (HCVF 2) and some plots important for local people identifying and protection**
- Bashkortostan (Ural Mountains): The concept of the Protected Areas system (using the Econet principles) is adopted by local government**
- Far East: the local rules concerning HCVF 1-3 are adopted by local Forest Agency**

Some other processes of HCV areas definition

- **World Heritage – 8 areas, some other are under preparation (Greenpeace Russia)**
- **Important Bird Areas – 1100 areas (Russian Bird Conservation Union)**
- **Important Plant Areas – just started (JUCN)**
- **Ramsar areas (Wetlands) - about**
- **Local expert work**

Nowadays it is not a good time for HCV protection in Russia

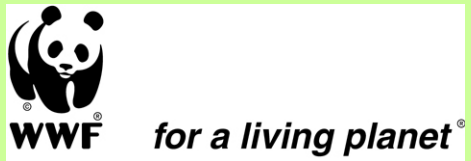
- **Russia ratified most of international conventions: Convention on Biodiversity Protection, Ramsar, Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**
- **Russia has a Federal Red Book and an appropriate legislation**

On the other hand:

- **The real protection of the HCV areas and objects mentioned is very weak**
- **Economy: is still mostly resource-oriented**
- **Politics: new Forest Code and some other changes in legislation that threaten HCV areas**



**In what cases the HCV
concept would be useful
in Russia?**



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