Forest Stewardship Council®

Perspective and progress from Intact forest landscapes priority areas in Russia

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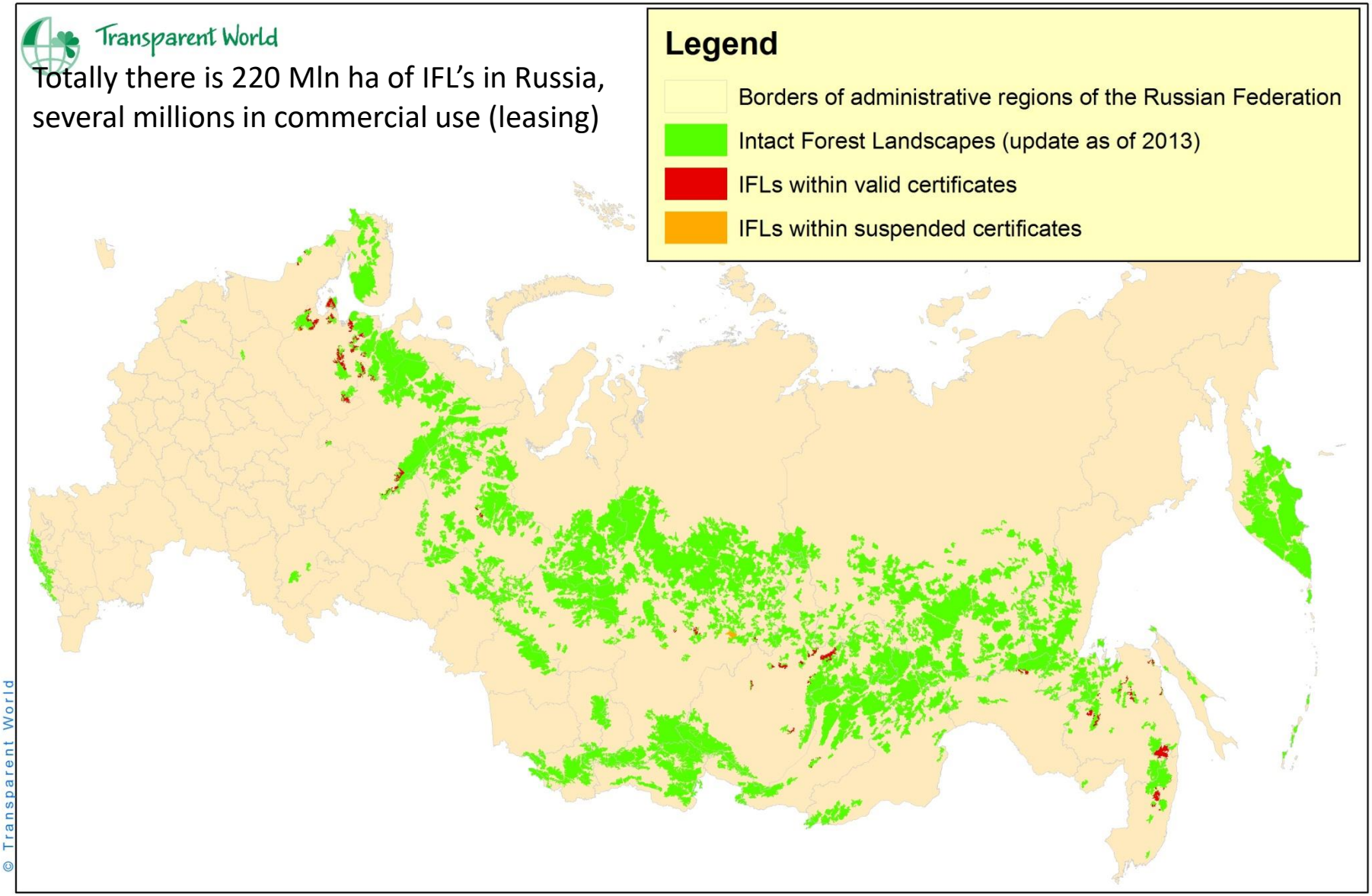
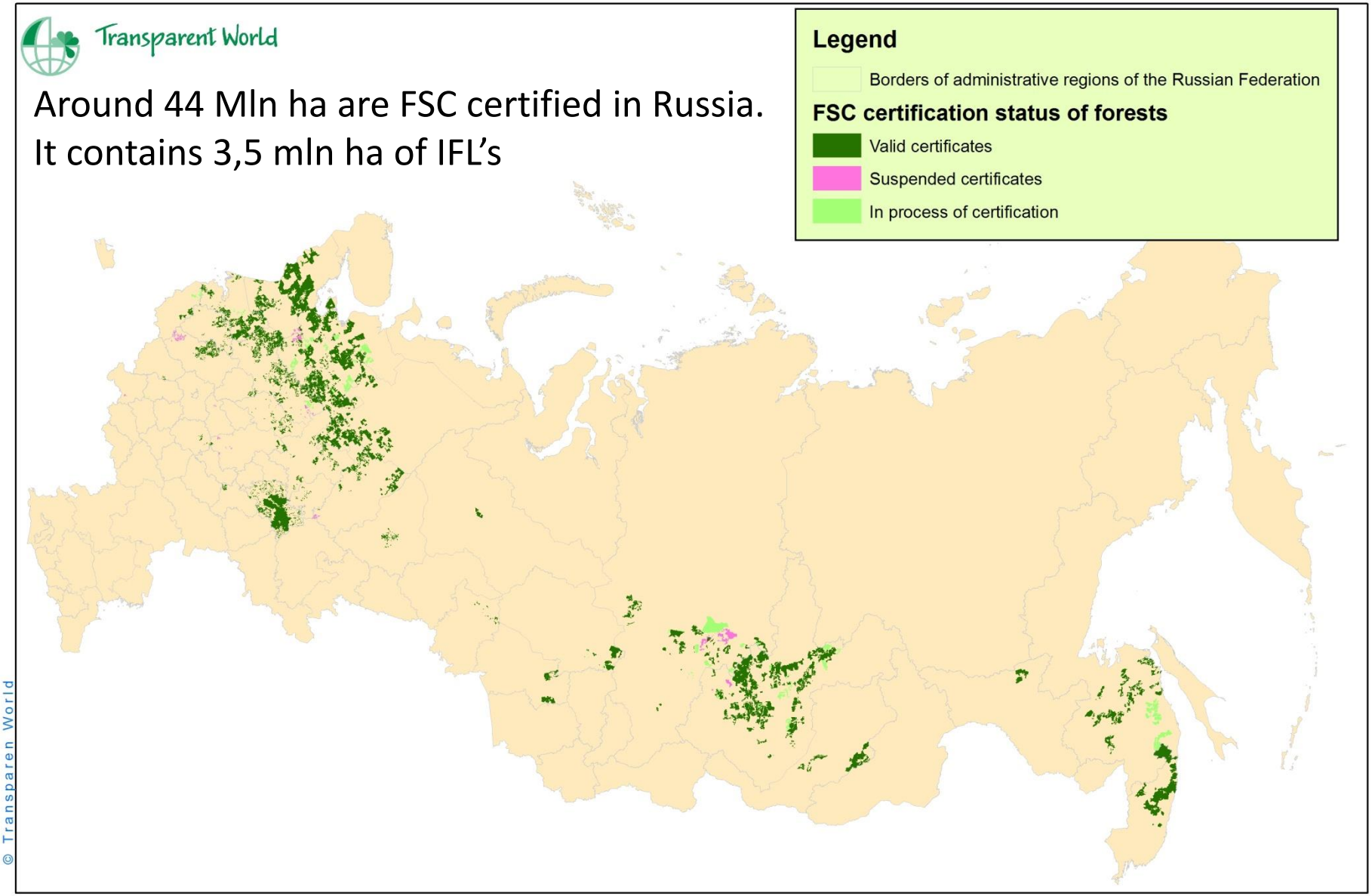
Intact forest landscapes within FSC-certified forests in Russia as of May 2016



Forests are in Government property, managed by private leaseholders. Around 200 Mln ha are leased, 160 Mln ha are leased for forest management

FSC-certified forests and forests in process of certification in Russia as of May 2016



Around 44 Mln ha are FSC certified in Russia.
It contains 3,5 mln ha of IFL's

From 3,5 mln ha of IFL's, 27% or 1 mln ha of core IFL's are set aside from logging as requirement of FSC Russia national standard

IFL status in Russia

IFL status

- 220 Mln ha of IFL's totally in Russia (most of them are remote, economically not accessible)
- 3,5 Mln ha of IFL's in 45 FSC certified concessions (quarter of concessions have IFL's)
- Around 5-10 Mln ha of IFL's in non-certified concessions
- No special status for IFL's in national forest legislation, IFL's are in regular forest management

IFL loss:

- 17 Mln ha of IFL's loss in Russia, since 2000 (Greenpeace data).
- The main reasons: forest fires, road and pipeline construction, logging (certified and non-certifed). PEFC Russia does not protect IFL's.
- From that around 10% (1,7 Mln ha) within FSC certified operations.

Protection of IFL's

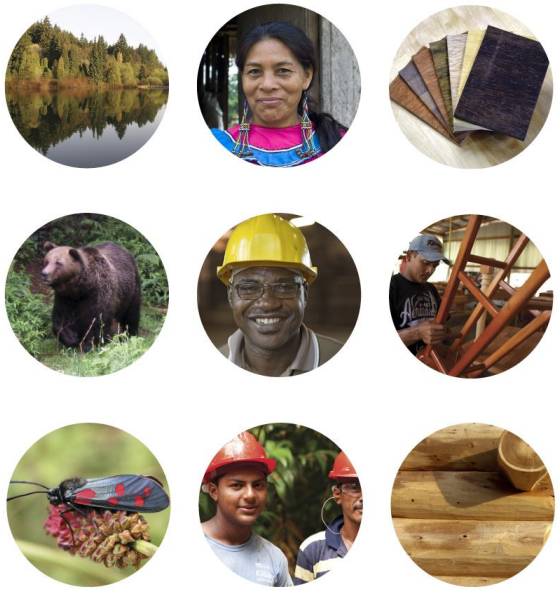
- From 3,5 Mln ha of IFL in FSC certified concessions **1 Mln** ha of core IFL's **set-aside** (protected) from logging by FSC CH's in the frame of logging moratoria between FSC CH's and NGO's (**27%** of IFL's in leasing).
- Some IFL's were protected as official PA's (mainly in Russian Far East, and smaller areas in European part of Russia) during last 15 years.
- **5 Mln ha** of other type of HCVF are protected within FSC certification in addition (HCV4 – according legislation)

Main issues for discussion in IFL area

1) **The role of Government in IFL protection**. Recently Russian forest agency introduced the new type of protective forests – *national heritage forests* – to protect "hot spots" of IFL.
2) **The long term sustainability of IFL's in FSC leasing**. There is a discussion between NGO's, experts and business, that current NFSS assessments does not provide the long-term (rotation cycle) calculation of IFL's sustaining, taking into account the consumption volums in processing and forest resources. The new technologies should be applied for such calculations.
3) **The impact of recent Greenpeace campaign over IFL protection**. The proposals in the recent Greenpeace report "Eye on taiga…" *to phase out suppliers, logging in IFL's*, may not necessarily improve the situation with IFL's and may lead to acceleration of IFL logging through PEFC scheme or non-certified logging
4) **The growth of alternative schemes of certification (PEFC) in IFL areas**. It seems that complexity of FSC standards and NGO's campaign has lead to fast growth in PEFC certified IFL containing concession (currently as double certification mainly)
5) **The need for market driven mechanism to reward CH's protecting IFL's**. CH's with IFL's spend more to obtain FSC certificates, that non IFL companies. Green house emission or ecosystem service market rewards will support the efforts of such CH's

Road map for better IFL protection

1) There is no “golden bullet” to protect IFL’s. Better government engagement/legislation measures and landscape approach seems to be the next important steps in IFL protection / management.
2) FSC will continue to play **a key role** in *partial* protection of IFL’s until specific legal and/or economic mechanisms will be established to support better conservation of IFL’s.
3) It is important that NGO’s will better address current PEFC growth in IFL’s in Russia and communicate reputational risks for PEFC from IFL to responsible buyers and market.
4) Development of economic incentives to protect IFL’s through ecosystem services or similar type of certification is another important tool in IFL management and conservation **road map**.



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