Boreal Forest Platform: a tool to reach a balance between development of forest industry and protection of high conservation values in Russia

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- Current situation with Russian forests, extensive forestry
- Importance of forestry intensification in Russia
- Boreal Forest Platform as a solution
Russian forests: big wealth, big challenges

Total area: 1183 mln ha (first in the World, 20% of the World’s forest cover)
Industrial forests (rented for logging): 177 mln ha
FSC certified: 40 mln ha

Damaged by forest fires every year: 6.2 mln ha (satellite data, 2014)
Illegal logging: 20 – 40 mln m3 every year (no official data)
Lack of democratic experience and stakeholders participation
Gaps in legislation / regeneration and logging rules and practices
Lack of experts and qualified practitioners
Area of forests of Finland is 2% of the area of forests of Russia, however, Finland harvests 65 mln m³ annually and Russia – about 200 mln m³.

Massive degradation of accessible forests: threat both for valuable timber and biodiversity. Continuous involvement of new forest areas into logging.

Transformation of tree species composition in secondary growth forests – from coniferous and oak to aspen and birch with low value to the industry = incentive to harvesting in intact forest landscapes.
Intensive sustainable forest management - Russian perspective

Growing of **targeted species**

Effective, **wise thinning**  
**Better reforestation**

**Concentration** of forest industry in secondary, already transformed forests

Planning of **biodiversity conservation**

**Improved protection** against fire and insects
Intensive sustainable forest management in Russia

Effective use of secondary forests + intensive practices

Conservation of intact forest landscapes

Forests as a source of valuable forest materials and services produced through environmentally and socially conscious forest management

Conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem functions, integrity of forest landscape, social and cultural forest values

Increase employment and better social and economic development in rural areas

Investment in better forest management practices and investment protection
To reach a balance between development of forest industry and protection of high conservation values
• To achieve real changes in the regulatory framework to provide the transition to intensive model of forestry

• To ensure the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and social values in intensively managed forests through a science-based zoning of the landscape and stakeholder dialogue

• Stimulate businesses and guarantee protection of investments in the course of transition to a more intensive and sustainable forest management
Objectives

✓ Discussion and exchange of experience

✓ Development of a consolidated position

✓ Communication and recommendations to state bodies
May 19, 2015 – the first meeting of the Platform

Plans

- Study tour at the WFC (Durban) in September
- Study tour in Komi (Russia) in October
- Web-site launch
Some possible stakeholders of the Boreal Forest Platform

- Producers and their suppliers
- Retail and their suppliers
- Academia
- National-level and international NGOs
- Regional and local NGOs
- Federal authorities

Space reserved for you! 😊
Welcome to the Platform!