

GFTN-RUSSIA FACT SHEET



BACKGROUND

The Russian Federation forests are important areas for biodiversity conservation, subsistence survival and economic development. Representing 22 per cent of the world's forests, the Russian boreal forests provide crucial habitat for a variety of plants and animals, including Amur Tigers and Leopards and brown bears. The greater part of the Russian forest belongs to the boreal forests biome. These forests are located in European Russia and Siberia, representing three Global Ecoregions known as the Eastern Siberian Taiga, Kamchatka Taiga and Grasslands and Ural Mountains Taiga. Smaller temperate forests also lie in three Global Ecoregions, including the Russian Far East Temperate Forests (Amur-Heilong), Caucasus-Anatolian-Hyrcanian Temperate Forests and Altai-Sayan Montane Forests. Russian forests are globally significant as they are one of four remaining mega-areas of intact forests in the world. Furthermore, Russian forests have the highest biodiversity and endemism among boreal forests and provide a carbon sink for 15 per cent of global CO₂ emissions. Despite these values, illegal and unsustainable logging continues to threaten this pristine region.

WHAT: GLOBAL FOREST & TRADE NETWORK – RUSSIA (GFTN-RUSSIA)

GFTN- Russia was founded in 1999 with the assistance of WWF-Russia to ensure the environmental responsibility of businesses and promote certified forest products to the world timber market. The strategic goal of GFTN-Russia is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests, thereby preserving Russia's natural heritage for generations to come.

WHO: COMPANIES GFTN-RUSSIA WORKS WITH

The leased commercial forest area in Russia is growing, currently amounting to 116.6 million hectares. The only way to maintain the health of these forests and keep them for future generations is to work directly with companies and private forest leaseholders to promote sustainable forest management, responsible business and voluntary forest certification.

There are a wide range of companies in the GFTN-Russia from small sawmills supplying local markets to large, fully integrated and capital-intensive multinational companies. There is also a wide range of companies in the retail sector that sell forest products having a brand profile that they need to protect and build. Although these companies have different needs, all seek sustainable long-term business.

QUICK STATS: GFTN-RUSSIA

- **26** companies with more than **141,000** employees
- **Over 15 million** hectares of credibly certified forest achieved by participants
- **51 million** m³ of forest products traded by participants
- **US\$9.4 billion** of forest products traded by participants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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