Preconditions for credible FSC Certification - HCV and Intact Forest Landscape concept

Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) The earth's last remaining large un-fragmented areas of natural forest

by Karine Jacquemart, Greenpeace International

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Presentation Outline

- What are Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)?
- How are they defined?
- Why are they important?
- What is Greenpeace vision on forests and climate?
- IFLs and HCV – how to include in FSC and Governments and donors supported activities?
- How to conserve and protect IFLs?

Large intact forest areas

- a critically important category of the remaining forests
- now cover less than 10% of the Earth's land area.
- For the first time high-resolution satellite images were used to identify large intact forest areas globally.
- The Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) approach has been developed to reframe our thinking and attitude to these last remaining large areas of forest
- to shift from considering them as a vast resource to exploit, to treasured remnants providing ecosystem services that are critical to making the Earth habitable.
- Recognizing and valuing intactness is essential for
  - forest conservation and protection strategies, and
  - for many processes including land-use planning

Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)

- What are they?

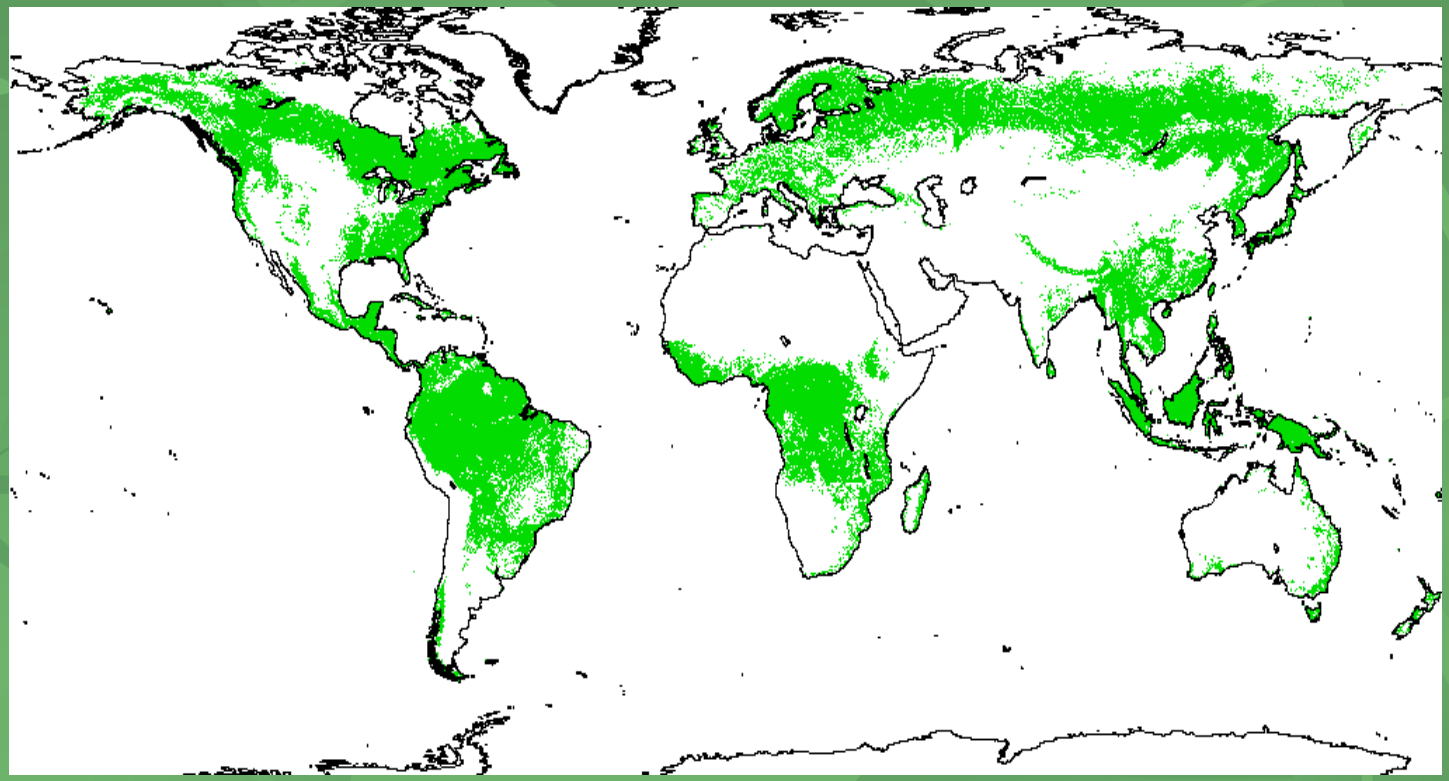
  An un-fragmented expanse of forest and natural ecosystems within a forested landscape that is minimally disturbed by people and larger than 50,000 hectares. It may include non-forest ecosystems.

- How are they defined?

  - Forest zone boundary identification first

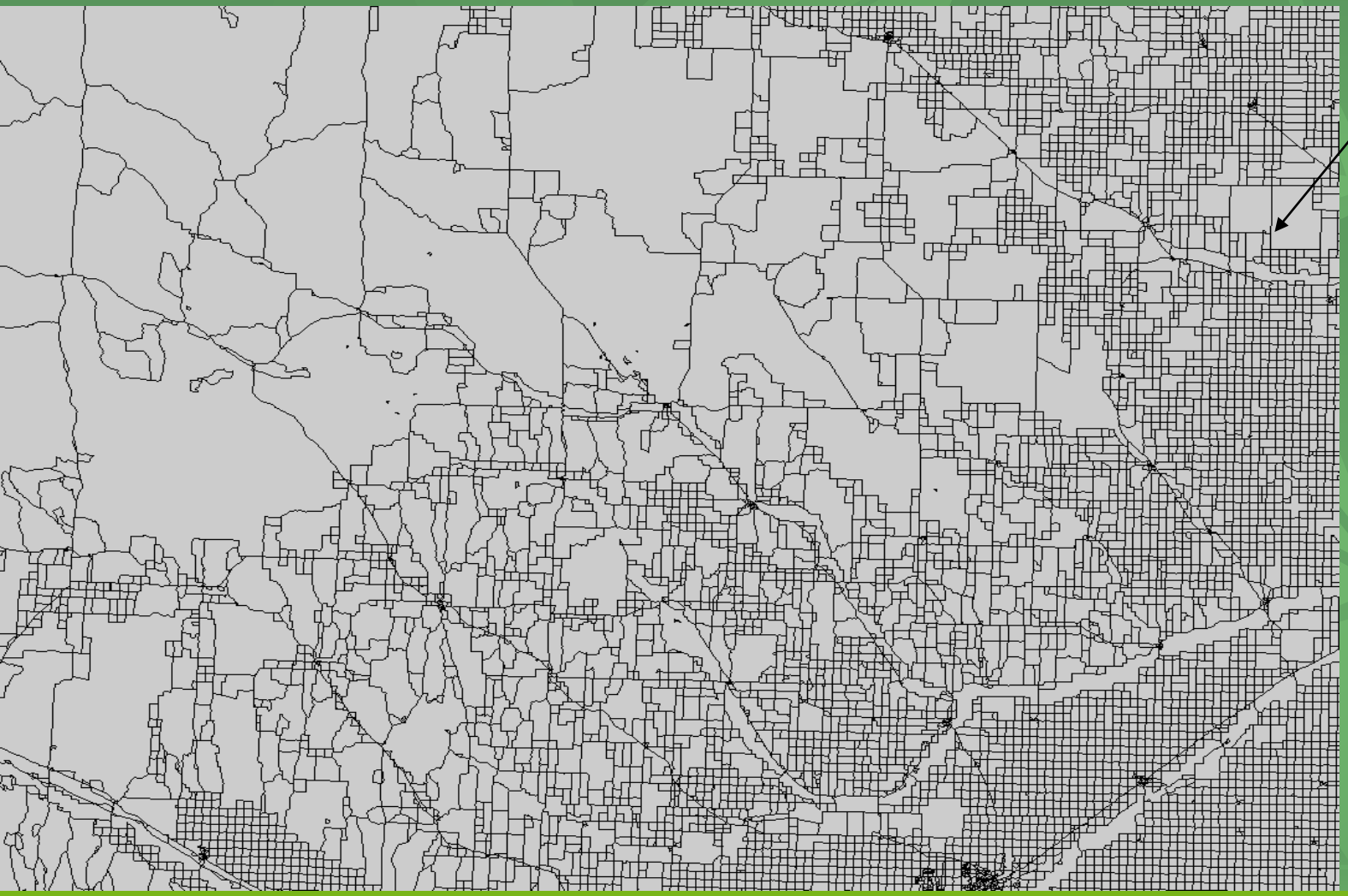
  - Does not include: settlements, infrastructure, agricultural lands (except those used by local communities for their needs and not connected to infrastructure), industrial activities, plantations, burnt areas.

IFL Definition:
Forests with canopy density > 20% & unfragmented forest landscapes > 50.000 ha

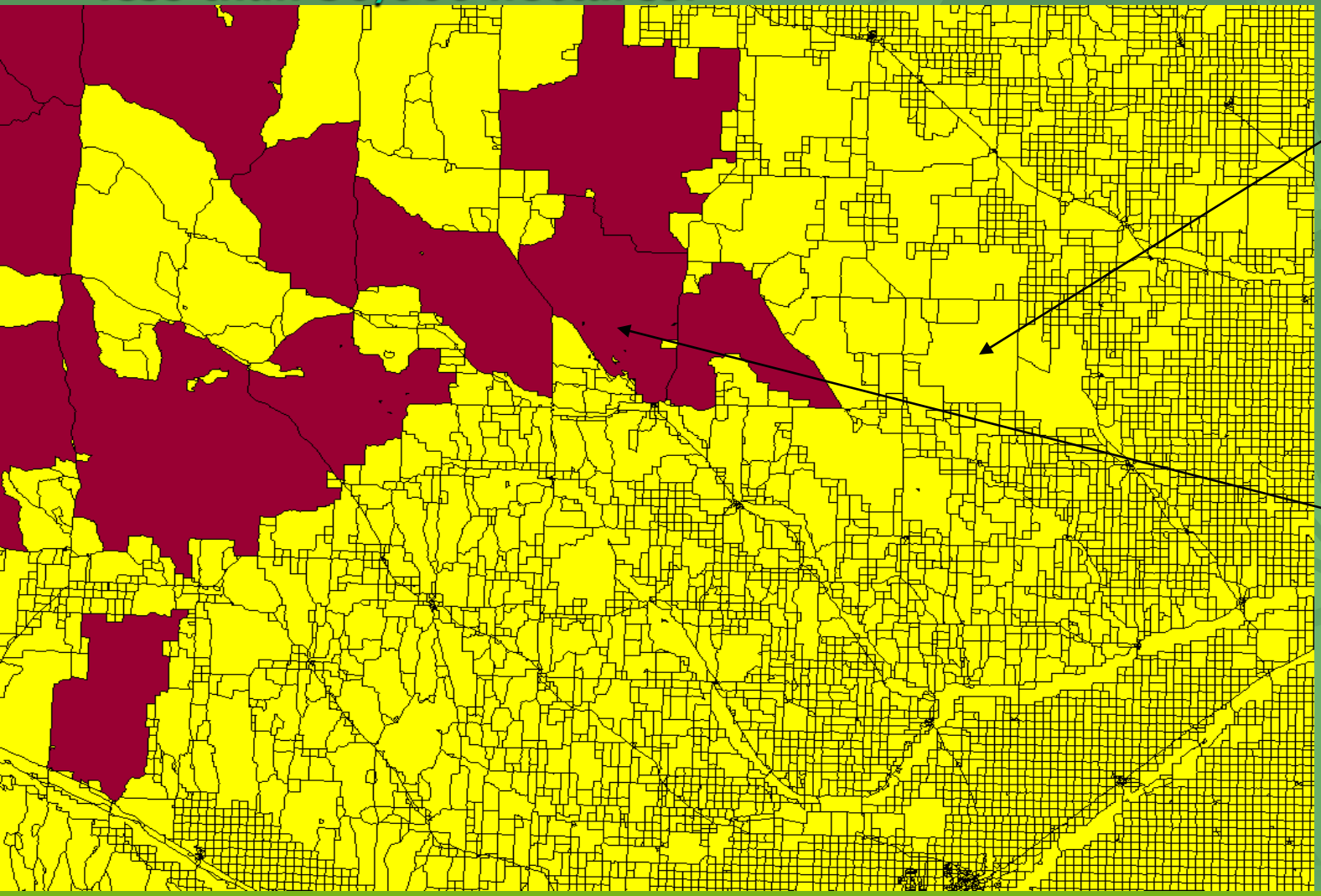


IFL Definition: Fragmentation analysis

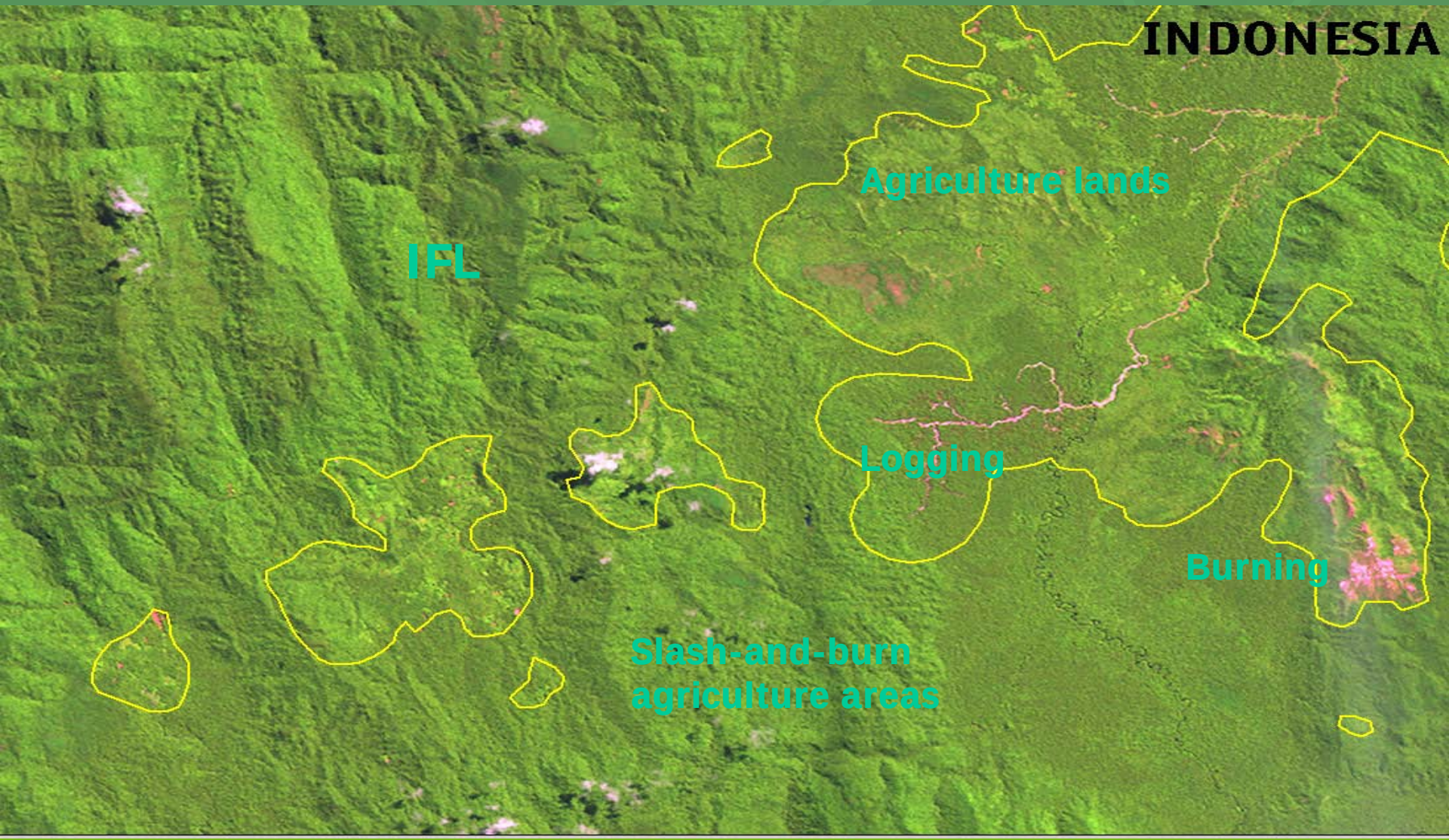
Based on TIGER dataset Scale 1:100000



IFL Definition: Using topographic info to exclude fragmented areas, industrial activities, plantations, burnt areas, that are less than 50,000 hectares.



IFL Definition:
Satellite Photo Analysis and Ground check for Disturbance



GREENPEACE WORLD INTACT FOREST LANDSCAPES

Based on the most up to date, high-resolution satellite imagery and a consistent set of criteria, Greenpeace has created a new map of the world's forests. It shows us the remaining large forest areas and lets us compare them directly and accurately, for the first time.

Intact Forest Landscapes of different regions

Photo:

1. **North America** – West Canada temperate rainforest (© Greenpeace/Ph. Aikman)
2. **South America** – Amazonian tropical rainforest, Brazil (© Greenpeace/D. Beltra)
3. **South America** – Patagonian temperate forests, Chile (© Greenpeace/D. Beltra)
4. **Africa** – Tropical rainforest in Gabon (© Greenpeace/M. Maute)
5. **Europe** – Taiga, European Russia (© Greenpeace/V. Kantor)
6. **Asia** – Larch forests in Western Sayan, Russia (© Greenpeace/M. Maute)
7. **Oceania** – tropical rainforest in New Guinea (© Greenpeace/T.Bloch)

The world's remaining ancient forests are vital to the future of the planet. Forests are home to two thirds of all known species of land plants and animals. They are also home to thousands of indigenous cultures who rely on them for food, water and basic materials of life. Forests also play a key role in regulating local and global climate. They are vital to the future of life on Earth.

This Greenpeace map is the first global assessment of remaining blocks of intact forest landscapes larger than 500 sq. km. It shows the remaining blocks of forest landscapes larger than 500 sq. km not fragmented by roads, settlements, waterways, pipelines, power lines etc. These forest landscapes are natural ecosystems from the forest vegetation zone which are mostly forested but also contain swamps and other non-forested ecosystems and which are without significant visible signs of human impact such as logging, burning or other forms of clearings.

There are three reasons for the focus on large areas. First, only sufficiently large areas are capable of conserving populations of large animals in their natural, undisturbed state, and of letting natural ecological processes such as fire, wind throw, etc take their course. Second, large undisturbed areas are important as a reference that helps in the understanding of already disturbed areas (the vast majority of forest landscapes). Third, large intact areas are often comparatively cheap to conserve, as they tend to rely on remoteness and low productivity as their main sources of protection.

Forest landscapes were mapped. The reason for mapping landscapes instead of individual ecosystems is that the forest is a natural mosaic of integrated ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and treeless areas. Separating these ecosystems would not only be difficult but also artificial.

This assessment is based on the most up to date high resolution satellite imagery and a consistent set of criteria which allows the state of forests throughout the world to be compared directly, for the first time. The fine-scale infrastructure maps and the latest available satellite imagery (2000-2004) were used. The goal of the project was to find forest landscapes with a minimum of human disturbance. Two things must be realized: that the boundary of human influence often is diffuse, and those areas, which are strictly free from human disturbance no longer remain. In this study, as area was considered to be in an intact natural state if showing no signs of permanent settlements or communications, of industrial forest harvesting during the last 30-50 years, or mining, land clearing, and other essential human impacts. Traces of low-intensity human disturbance (like hunting, pollution, forest grazing) and mature secondary forests on the place of old disturbances were included inside Intact Forest Landscapes.

This map of large intact natural forest landscapes is an important and necessary component of a general conservation strategy, but it is not by itself sufficient. Many ecosystems have already been disturbed to the point where only small fragments or nothing at all, remains. Mapping of these ecosystem residuals was outside the scope of this study but is an important task for the future.

For high resolution maps and a detailed methodology: *www.intactforests.org*.

This map is prepared by Greenpeace with the participation of Biodiversity Conservation Center (Russia), International Socio-Ecological Union and Luonto-Liitto (Finnish Nature League). As additional materials that were used for cross-verification of the map also were used following publications: "Remaining wildlands of the Northern forests" (GFW, 2002, unreviewed draft); Atlas of Russia's intact forest landscapes (GFW, 2002).

Potapov P. (ed.), Aksenov D., Cybikova E., Dubinin M., Egorov A., Esipova E., Fedorov V., Glushkov I., Karpachevsky M., Kostikova A., Lestadius L., Manisha A., Murchie A., Musin B., Thies C., Turubanova S., Turunen O., Yaroshenko A., Zhuravleva I. **World Intact Forest Landscapes (map). - Moscow.: Greenpeace, 2006.**

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Why are IFLs important?

- **Threatened**: they cover less than 10% the Earths land area and only 23% of remaining forest zone. Globally only 18% are in some form of protection. Nearly half of IFLs are in the three tropical regions – Amazon, Congo, Asia-Pacific, with over half of the countries with forest have no large intact areas remaining.

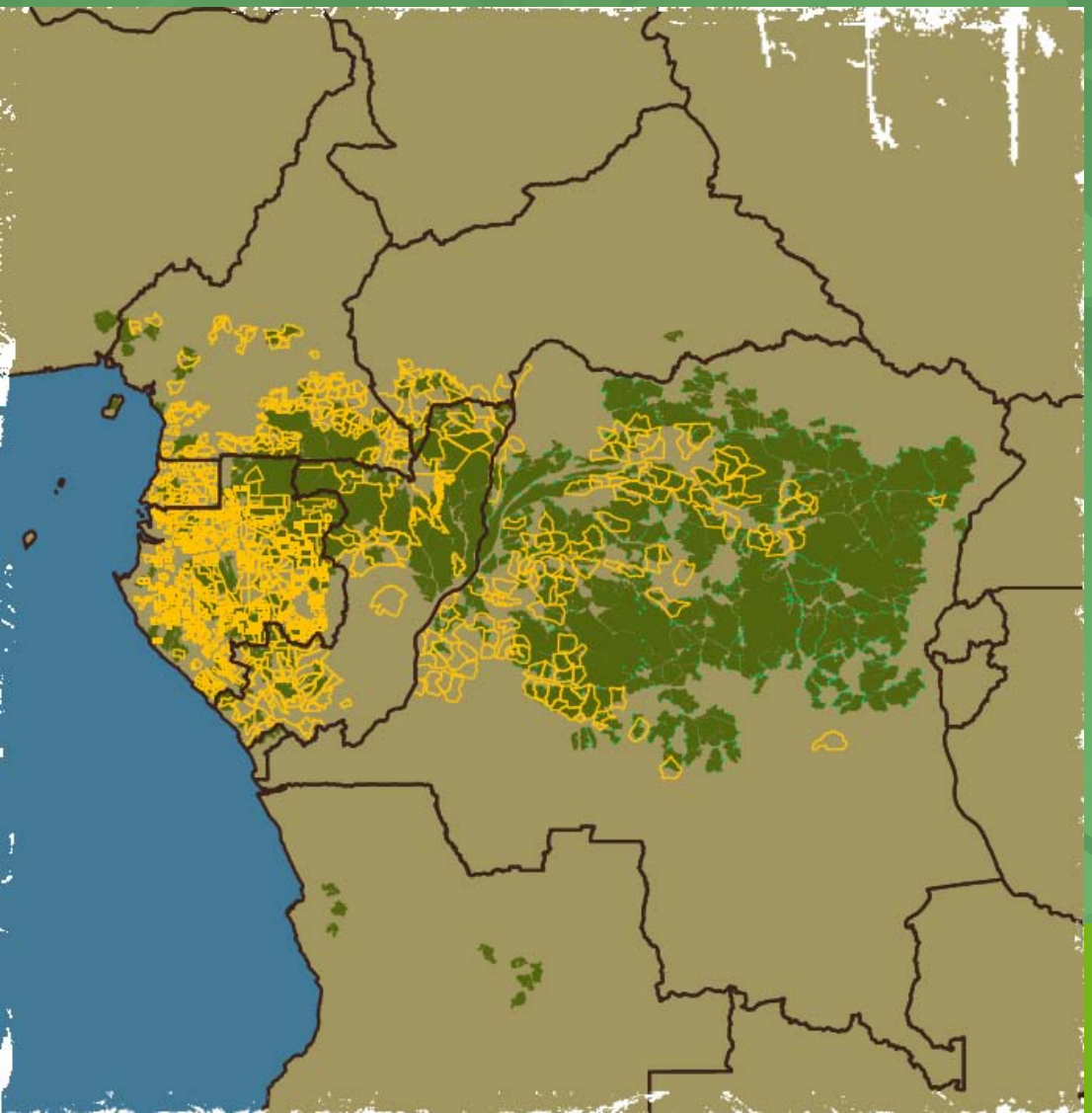
- Critical for **people**: they provide food, shelter, medicine, water, clean air, and other ecosystem services

- Critical for **biodiversity**

- **Critical for climate** – HCVF2 Further, intact primary forests are increasing their carbon stores – a recent long-term study confirmed this for African tropical forests

- **High Conservation Value (HCV)**: intactness is a high conservation value and large landscape level forests and ecosystems (HCV2) are critical for the survival of the Earth.

IFLs in the Congo Basin and localization of concessions



Map created with satellites: Landsat TM (global coverage representing an average date of 1990) and ETM+ (global coverage representing an average date of 2000, 30m spatial resolution)

The majority of IFLs is found in DRC, North RC and Cameroon (réserve du Dja)

IFL

Concessions forestières

Cours d'eau

Greenpeace Vision

Climate change and deforestation (including forest degradation) are a vicious cocktail

- Halting industrial logging and conversion threat of primary and intact forest landscapes.
- Forestry and logging should happen outside IFLs and be certified by FSC at a minimum.
- It also means establishing comprehensive networks of protected areas at all scales consisting of strict protected areas and core zones as well as community protected areas and buffer zones allowing small-scale and low-impact forest use.

Global Relevance of IFLs and HCV

- FSC - Forest not Forestry
  - FSC vision & mission
- FSC Global strategy: indicators e.g.
  - HCVF and large natural forest block protection
  - 100% increase in tropical forest certificates
  - Indigenous peoples, community forestry, SLIMF, NTFP & services
- Tropical forests for the climate
  - Intact and primary forests especially important – CBD, IPCC, GP report
  - REDD opportunities for forest protection
  - Only 3% of forest mitigation potential is SFM according to (ITTO)
- FSC increase focus on conservation and protection

+0,74°C

Historical responsibility of industrialized countries!

<2°C

Need of support by industrialized countries to save the climate and protect the forests!

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German Sectoral Concept on Forests

- On a **global and local scale**, forests are among the ecosystems most important for the survival of humankind. **Large, unfragmented forests**, particularly in the humid tropics (Amazon, **Central Africa**, and South-East Asia), and boreal (cold-temperate) and temperate zones, have a **significant impact on climate and water cycles**. Forests, and particularly **primary forests, are the most important terrestrial reservoirs for carbon**. Their destruction (or degradation) releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere… … industrialized countries share a **vital interest in the preservation and spread of natural forests** on a global scale. (p.8)

- **Minimum ecological standards: In forests with high conservation value, protection of the ecosystem's biodiversity takes precedence over other goals** (p.14)

- **In high conservation value forests, only participatory, multi-purpose, sustainable forest management by the local population may be supported**,…(p.14)

Protection and Conservation of IFLs

- Moratoria on expansion of industrial activities into large intact forest areas and other HCVFs
- Implementing participatory land-use planning (at different scales/levels and linked to REDD preparation) including:
  - Protection of biodiversity and carbon rich values
  - FPIC (CLIP) with indigenous peoples and traditional forest users, and giving greater local control to allow forest and carbon protection as well as improvements in livelihoods.
- A network of protected and conservation areas containing all large intact forest areas, and
  - Includes community use and conservation areas, core protection and buffer zones allowing small scale and low-impact forest use
  - Excludes industrial activities including logging, based on the latest science and the precautionary principle in relation to the impacts of fragmentation through roading and access, and in particular to protect carbon value

Scientific Paper and Resource Links

- Potapov, P., A. Yaroshenko, S. Turubanova, M. Dubinin, L. Laestadius, C. Thies, D. Aksenov, A. Egorov,Y. Yesipova, I. Glushkov, M. Karpachevskiy, A. Kostikova, A. Manisha, E. Tsybikova, and I. Zhuravleva. 2008. Mapping the world's intact forest landscapes by remote sensing. Ecology and Society 13(2): 51.
  http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss2/art51/

- Greenpeace Policy on Saving Forests to Protect the Climate (August 2009)
  (available in French and English)
  http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/greenpeace-policy-on-saving-fo-2.pdf

- "Why logging will not save the climate". (French version not available yet)
  http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/why-logging-will-not-save-the.pdf

- The carbon offsets report was released in October 2009. Link below:
  Carbon Scam: Noel Kempff Climate Action Project and the push for sub-national forest offsets
  http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/carbon-scam-noel-kempff-carbo.pdf
- Greenpeace – 'Forest for Climate' reports – global UNFCCC negotiations solution:
  http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change/forests_for_climate

- BMZ Forest Sector Concept
  http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/en-bmz-23-forest-sector-concept-2002.pdf