

Strategy for Protection of Intact Forest in the Barents Region

Barents Euro-Arctic Council
12th Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment
24-25 November 2015, Sortavala, Russia

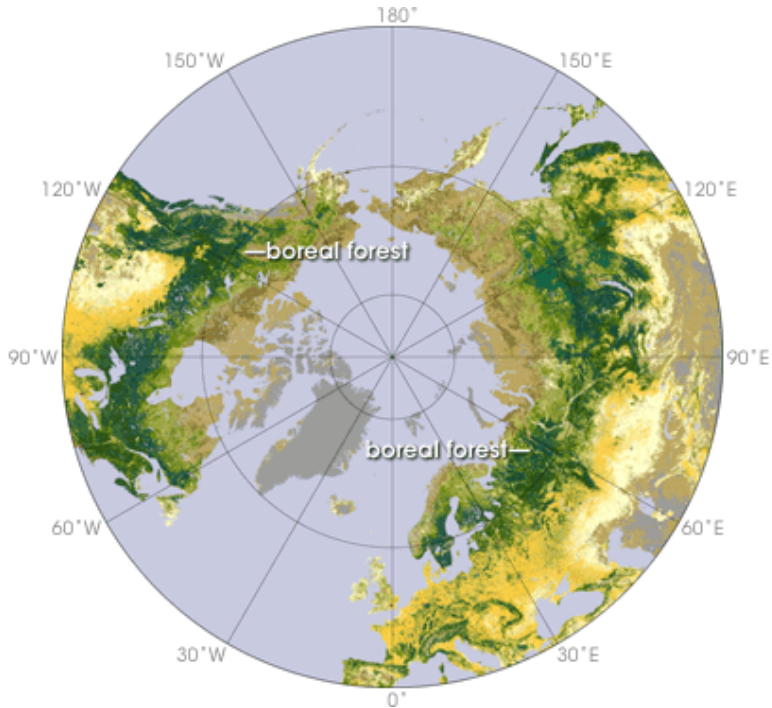
Presented by the Nature Protection Subgroup
Jan-Petter Huberth Hansen, Norway

Background

The Ministers of the Environment at their 11th Meeting Inari, Finland 2013:

- *welcomed* the progress in establishing new protected areas
- *stressed* the need for prompt implementation of planned protected areas as an important measure for achieving the Aichi biodiversity targets
- *called for finalization of a strategy to protect the last pristine boreal forests in the Barents Region.*

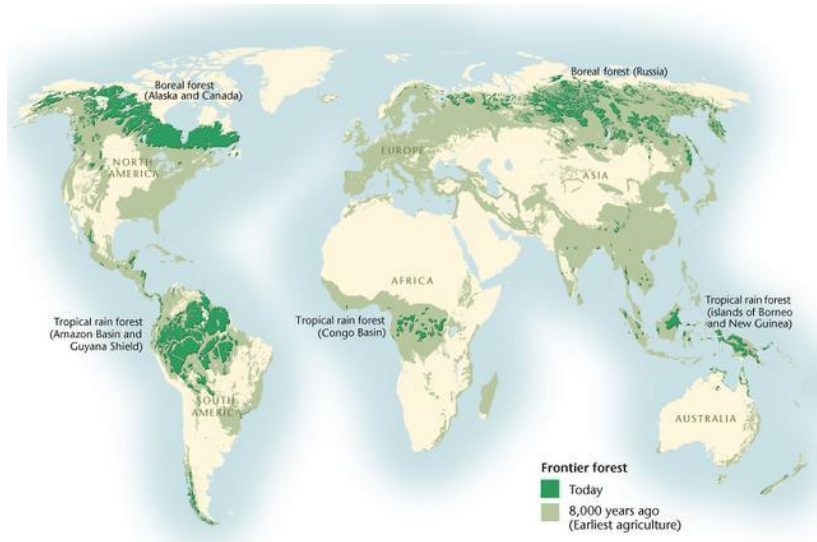
The Boreal Forests



The Boreal Forest

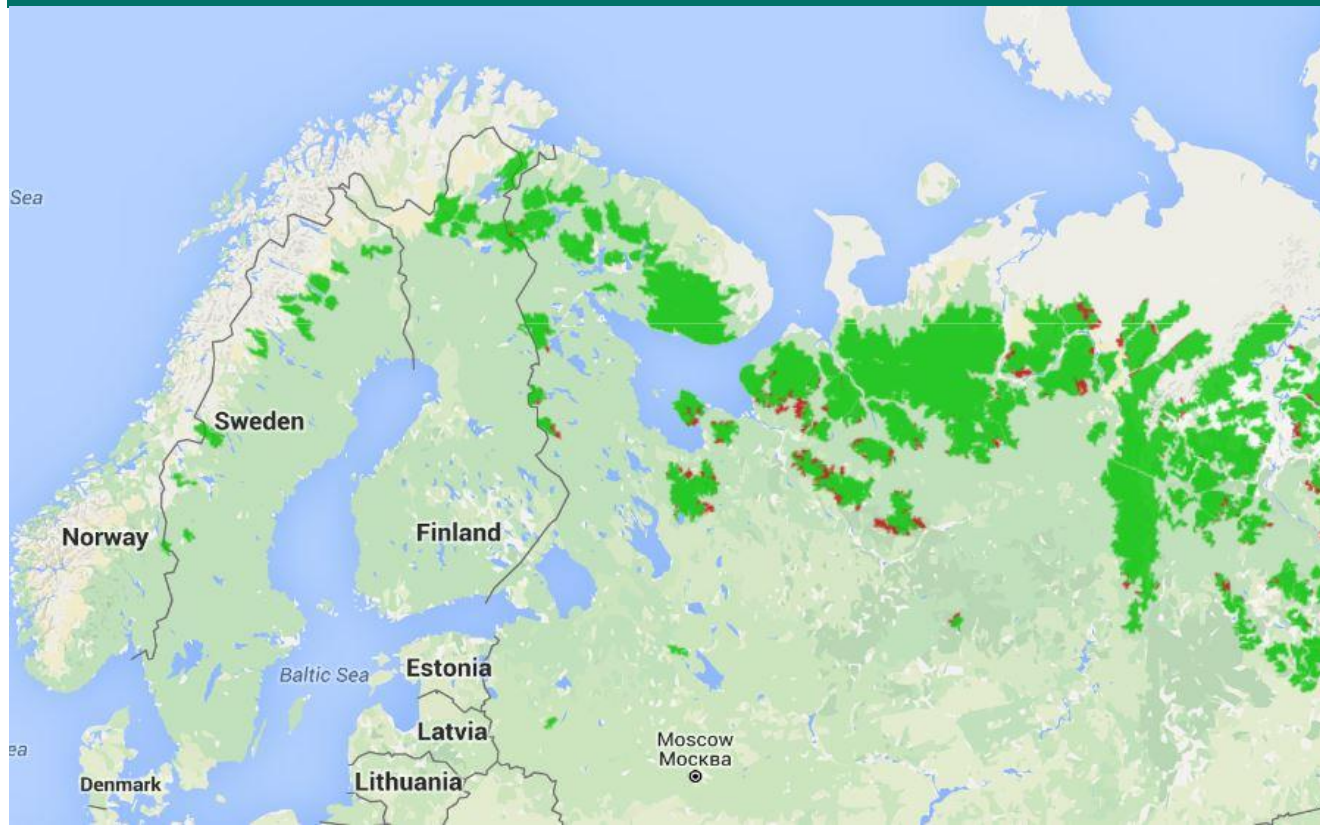


Once upon a time...



The forests are declining all over the world...

Forest in the Barents Region



Intact forest landscapes in the Barents region

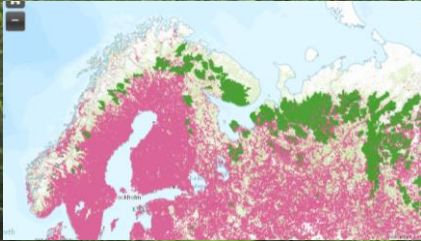
- *green color* shows intact forests
- *red color* shows recent reduction due to logging).

Illustration by <http://www.intactforests.org/world.webmap.html>

Definition of Intact Forest

The definition of intact forest includes ***Intact Forest Landscapes*** (500 km² or more) and ***Intact Forest Tracts*** smaller than landscapes

In this Strategy the concept intact forest is used because it allows some slight human impact.



Why a Strategy for Protection?

- The majority of the terrestrial species on earth are found in forests.
- Forests are crucial for the earth's climate, as they provide large carbon sink on land, while also regulating the climate through evaporation and rainfall.
- The world's forests are under threat, and large areas of forest are lost each year due to expansion of infrastructure and agriculture, unsustainable forest use and illegal logging.



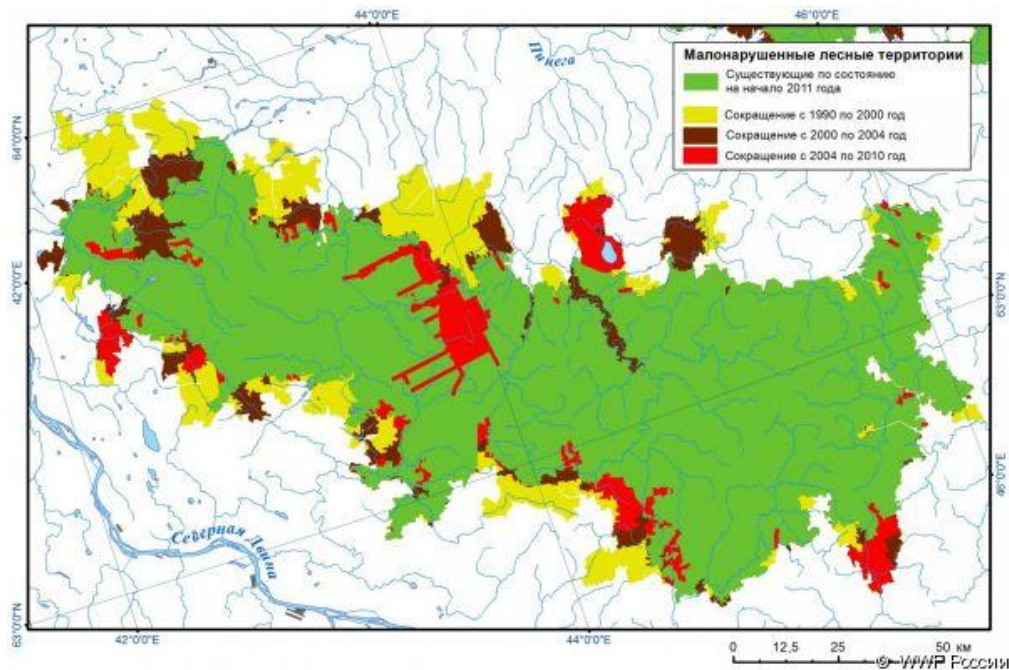
Values and Threats

- The nature in the Barents Region is unique and diverse. In the region we find large intact forest ecosystems. They are of global value.
- Among the the threats are:
 - Road building
 - Industrial logging
 - Mining
 - Other impacts



Example: Industrial logging in intact forest

Arkhangelsk



Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

CBD AICHI-Target 5:

- By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, *including forests*, is at least halved and *where feasible brought close to zero*, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.



The Strategy - main goal

- The intact forest landscapes and intact forest tracts in the Barents Region are preserved through existing and new protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures.

Note: The strategy is based on Aichi biodiversity target 5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and includes the intact boreal forests in the Barents Region. Consequently **this strategy does not include forestry.**

Recommendations

1. **Preserve intact forest landscapes and tracts**
2. **Establishment of planned protected areas as statutory protected areas by 2020**
3. **Undertake restoration measures in areas with high restoration potential**
4. **Support Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) as a regional initiative to protect intact forest**
5. **Ensure that intact forest in existing and planned protected areas are adequately preserved**

Recommendations - cont.

6. Ensure stakeholder participation in preservation of intact forests as appropriate
7. Ensure sufficient long-term financing of preservation of intact forests
8. Improve knowledge about the intact forests
9. Monitor intact forest
10. Develop Regional Strategies and Action Plans

Follow up

- The Strategy is recommended to be implemented through Regional Strategies and regional and local Action Plans. Some efforts/plans exists already
- Implementation of the Strategy should be followed up by the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Working Group of Environment (WGE).
- Reporting every second year to the Environmental Ministers of BEAC on progress and status.
- A complete evaluation of the first five years period (2016 - 2020) to be reported to the Environmental Ministers of BEAC.





Thank you!

