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Conservation of Biodiversity in Russian Forests

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Content

- ❑ Russian forests and their role in global environment
- ❑ Forest biodiversity and climate change
- ❑ Forest legislation and forest biodiversity conservation
- ❑ Forests, climate change and new approaches to energy strategy in Russia
- ❑ Conclusions

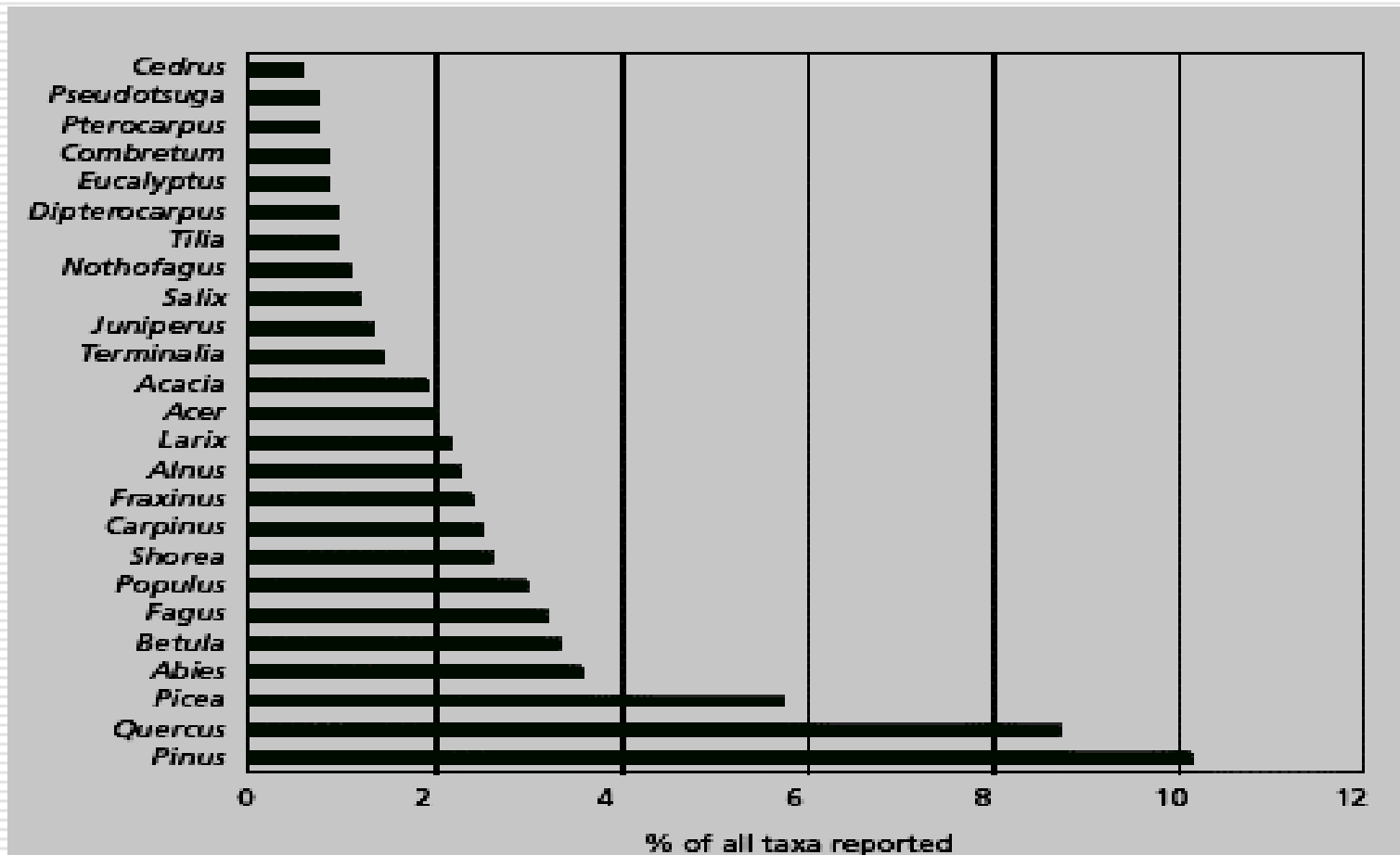
Forests are the single most important repositories of terrestrial biological diversity.

Forest Genetic Resources, Vol.2, p.V
FAO, DFSC, IPGRI (2001).

Tree species under threat

- ❑ Overall situation
- ❑ New assessments of biodiversity in tree genera
 - ❑ FRA 2005
 - ❑ Data on threatened tree species
- ❑ Measures taken and under development
 - ❑ International agreements and processes
 - ❑ Countdown 2010
 - ❑ Bar-coding
 - ❑ Gene reservations

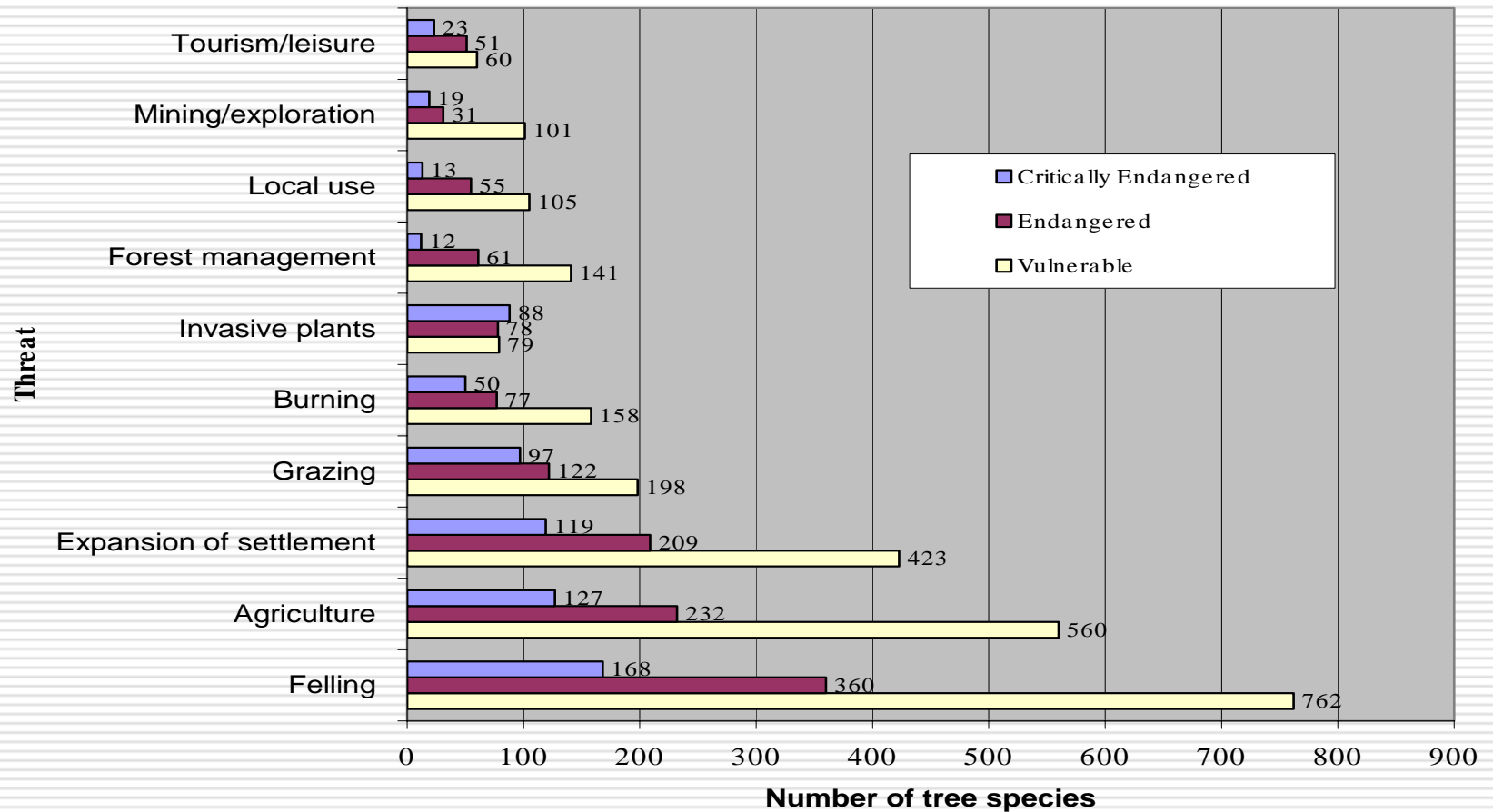
Twenty-five most common genera



Globally threatened tree species

1994 IUCN Threat Category	Number of trees
Extinct	77
Extinct in the wild	18
Critically Endangered	976
Endangered	1,319
Vulnerable	3,609
Lower Risk: near threatened	752
Lower Risk: conservation dependent	262
Data Deficient	375
Sub Total	7,388
Lower Risk: least concern	1,971
Not evaluated	732
Total number of species reviewed	10,091
Globally threatened Australian tree species	141
Globally threatened Japanese tree species	202
Additional globally threatened species - old IUCN threat categories	1,022
Total number of globally threatened tree species	8,753

Most frequently recorded threats



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Russian forests and global environment

- ❑ Vast area, remote access, virgin forests
- ❑ Forest biodiversity
- ❑ Carbon deposition
- ❑ Protected areas
- ❑ Near tundra forests
- ❑ Influence on global environment including permafrost and water supplies

Climate change and forest biodiversity

- Results of modern research
 - Tree rings analysis
 - Pollination analysis
 - Modeling of carbon balance
 - etc.
- Current trends observed in Russia
 - Shift of polar tree lines
 - Permafrost and long frost areas
 - Flora and fauna
- Overall assessment for Russia

Causes of biodiversity loss in Russia

- Forest fire
- Deforestation
- Pest outbreaks
- Poor management
- Lack of legislation
- No governmental body responsible for biodiversity conservation
- Illegal activities in forests
- Corruption

Forest legislation and governance

- ❑ Administrative reform and changes in forest sector
- ❑ New Forest Code (FC) of the Russian Federation
- ❑ First ever articles on forest biodiversity
- ❑ Link with other nature conservation legislation and initiatives
- ❑ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and forest legislation
- ❑ What do common people think
- ❑ What federal authorities want to achieve

Article 1. Key Principles of the Forest Legislation

The following principles shall underlie the forest legislation and other enactments governing forest relations:

1. sustainable forest management, **biological diversity conservation** in forests, and enhancement of their potential;
2. maintenance of **habitat-forming, water-conservation, protection**, sanitation, recreation and **other beneficial functions** of forests, to ensure that each person could exercise the right for a healthy environment;
3. use of forests with due **regard to their global environmental significance**, as well as taking into account the length of their cultivation and other natural properties...

Article 59. Protection of Rare and Endangered Tree, Shrub, Liana and Other Forest Plant Species

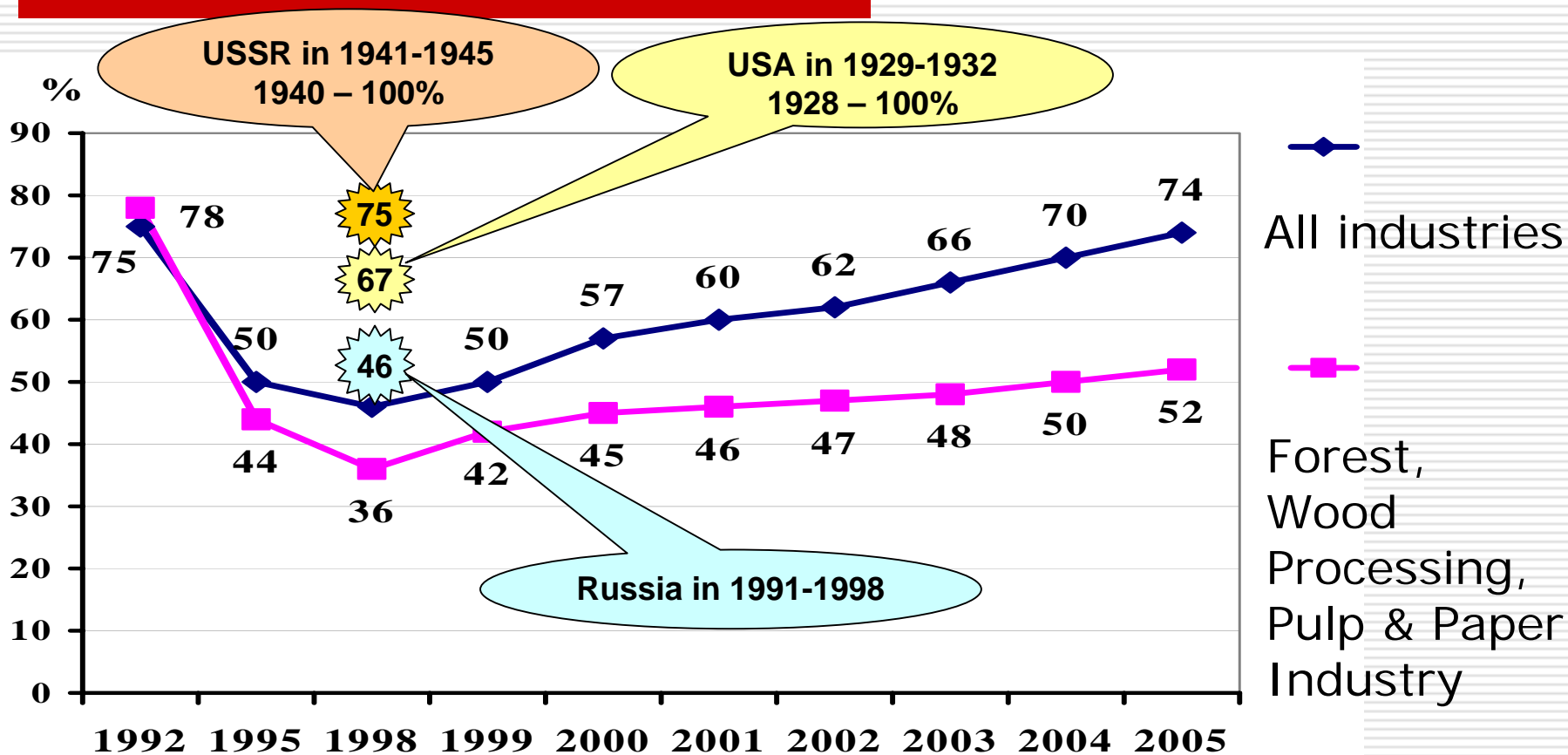
For purposes of preserving **rare and endangered tree, shrub, liana and other forest plant species** listed in the **Red Data Book** of the Russian Federation or the Red Data Books of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, it **may be prohibited** to implement activities with adverse impact which will or can lead to **reductions** in populations of such plants and (or) **deterioration** of their **habitats**, or restrictions may be imposed on such activities.

Why change?

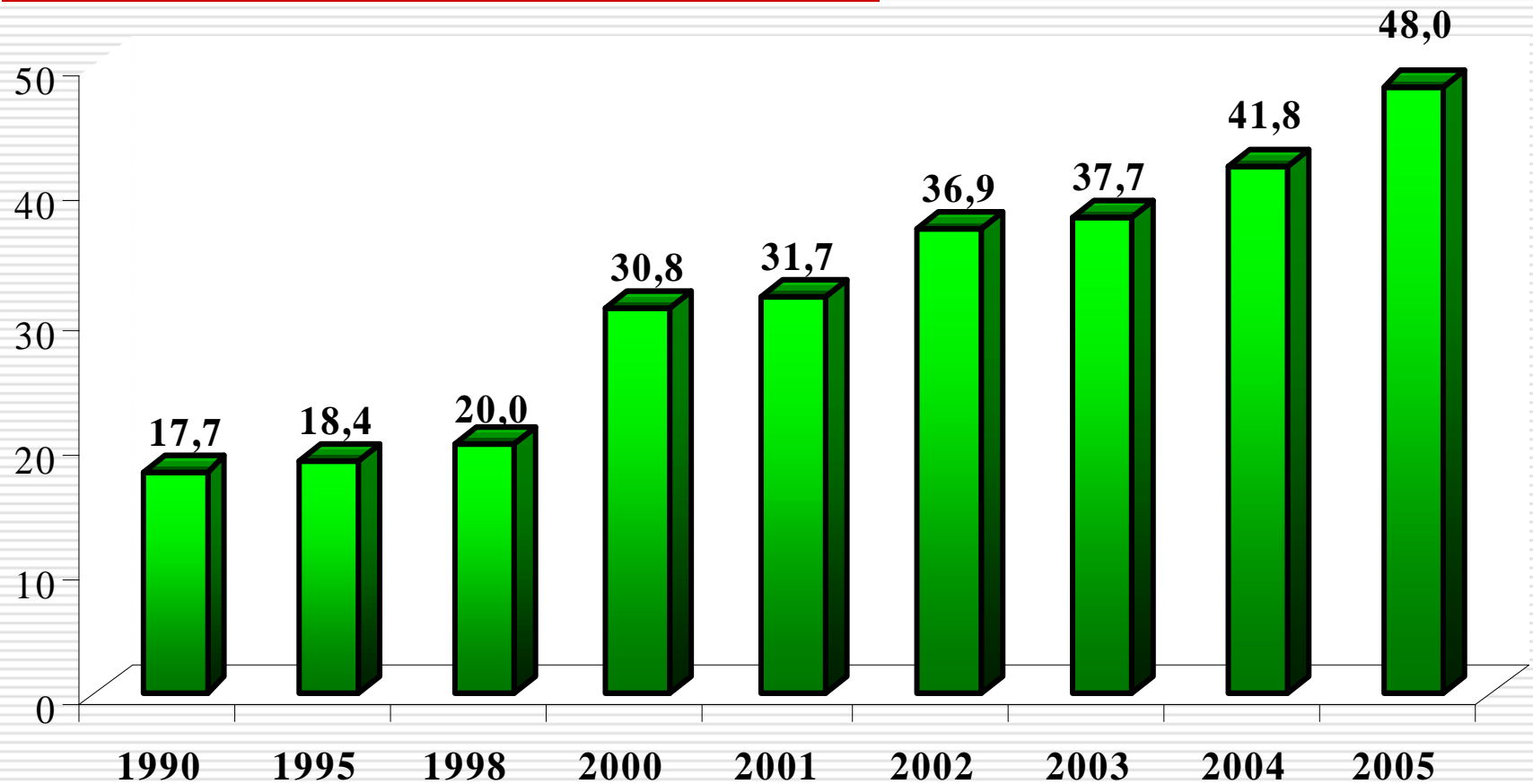
To solve current problems in forest sector:

- low level of **forest use**
- low **profitability**
- lack of good **management** practice in the regions
- high rate of **corruption** in forest sector
- **illegal** logging and timber trade
- low **innovation** and **investment** activities
- **critical social situation** in the majority of forest regions
- etc.

Industry indexes (1990 – 100%)



Roundwood export, mil. cbm



Reconciling energy development

- **Situation** in timber industry
- Current **demand** and supply
- Competition of **big businesses** (oil, gas, metallurgy) and traditional timber industry
- **National Programmes** and forest sector
- Russia and **Kyoto Protocol**
- Fossil fuel vs. **biofuel**: new plants to make pellets
- **Plantations** in Russia

Article 42. Establishment and Use of Forest Plantations

1. Establishment and use of forest plantations is an **entrepreneurial** activity involving cultivation of forest stands of definite species (targeted species).
2. ...
3. Forest plantations may be established on the forest estate lands and **lands of other categories**.
4. ...
5. It shall be permitted to cut and tap forest stands within forest plantations **without reservations**.

EU and Russia

- ❑ Long history of relations
- ❑ Energy sector
- ❑ Technical assistance and bilateral activities in forest sector
- ❑ Biodiversity conservation
- ❑ FLEG process
- ❑ Support of civil society progress

Conclusions

- ❑ Russian forests work for the planet
- ❑ Climate change and its impact on Russian forests and vice versa is obvious
- ❑ Forest biodiversity is under threat
- ❑ Significance of European support for civil society as an important voice to influence Russian climate/forest/biodiversity outcomes



Thank you!