

Responsible pulp sourcing: Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia

Björn Roberts, Senior Adviser
b.roberts@earthworm.org



Earthworm Foundation

Established 1999 (then 'TFT')

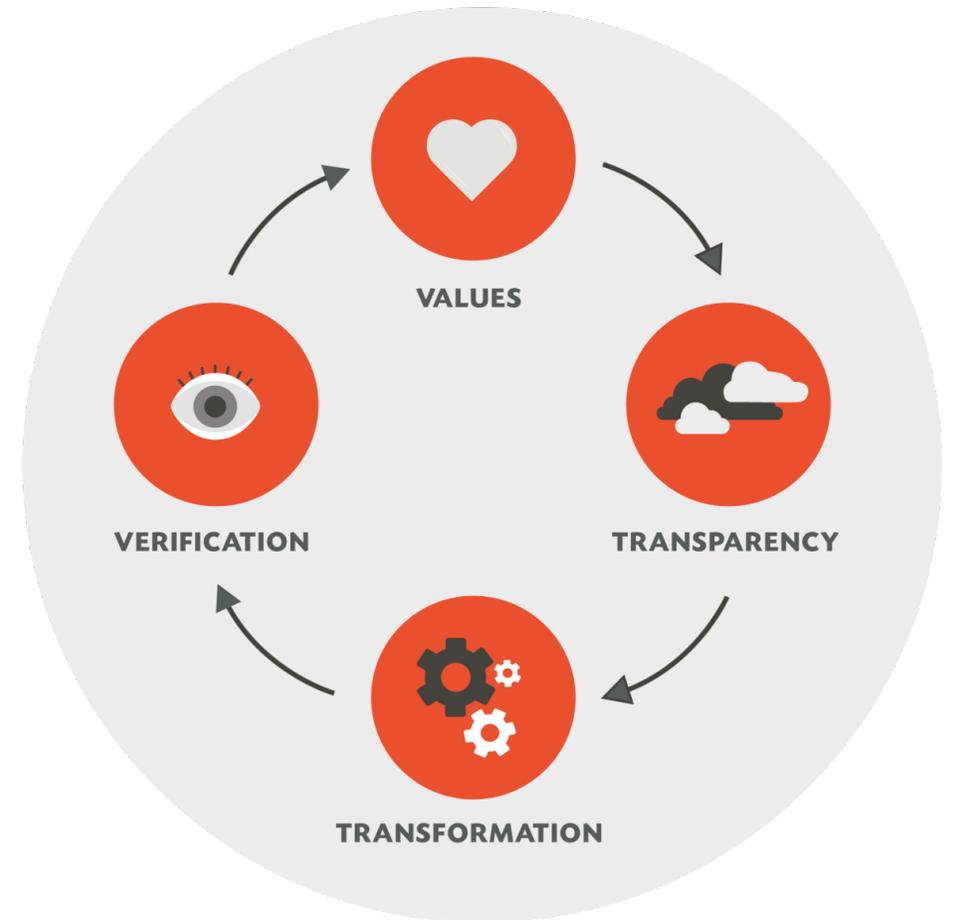
Non-profit partnering businesses for healthy environmental and social supply chain impacts

c.250 in 16 countries worldwide, most working 'in the field' with producers and communities

Membership of producers, suppliers, brands and retailers

Focus on product group supply chains and priority landscapes

Product groups include forest fiber-based packaging, paper and biomass, and deforestation-linked agricultural commodities

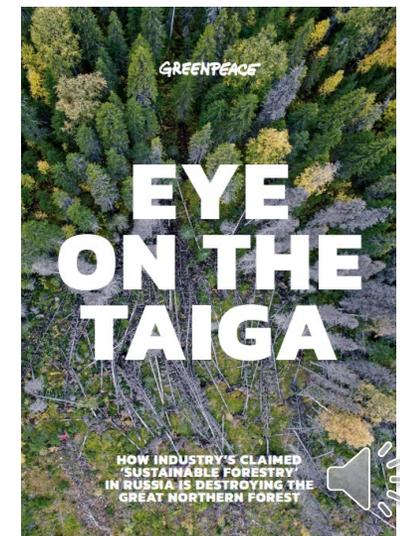
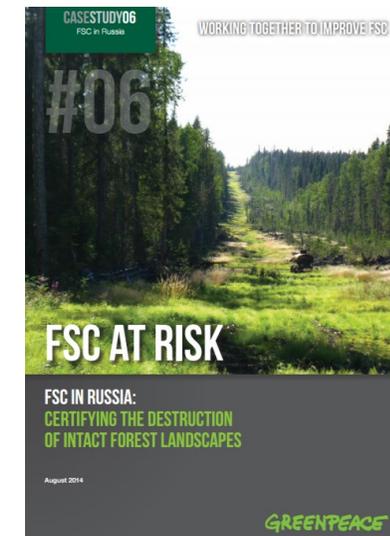
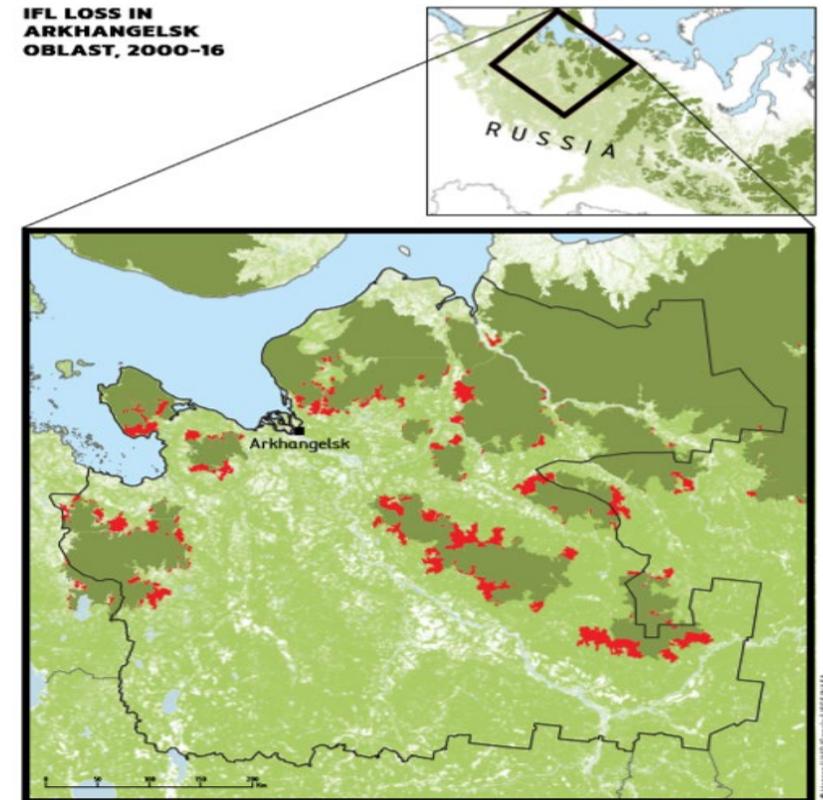


Arkhangelsk Oblast

- Significant pulp-sourcing region for EF Members including Nestlé
- FSC COC, FM and CW, but ‘expansive’ forestry model, moving east through rare boreal IFL and other large areas of old growth forest
- Iconic Dvinsky IFL diminishing – voluntary protection commitment weakening
- WWF Russia & Greenpeace Russia public campaign
- Heavily forested region with community livelihoods dependent on forest industry

The challenge for Nestlé: BAU, walk away, or get involved?

IFL LOSS IN
ARKHANGELSK
OBLAST, 2000-16



Engagement elements

Direct dialogue between Nestlé, the pulp producer and forestry company.

Demonstration that the pulp and forestry company would play support legal protection for the Dvinsky, including sacrificing harvesting rights (FSC also convened dialogue between forestry companies, regional government NGOs, and buying companies)

Planning to reduce pressure on IFLs and other old growth, by promoting intensive management of 'developed' forest, and other alternative economic opportunities

Funding 'Starling' remote sensing (EF-Airbus joint initiative) to monitor for harvesting within the Dvinsky, and to generate better information about the forest resource to support improved management



The Situation Today

2019: 300,000 ha of the Dvinsky IFL under full legal protection, after 10 years of work by WWF and Greenpeace

2020: WWF, FSC and Earthworm joint project established to:

- Identify areas of High Conservation Value Forest
- Work with forest concessionaires to support intensification of sustainable forest management
- Develop other economic opportunities with forest communities

Earthworm Members Nestlé and Mars fund the project, and continued Starling monitoring

2021 priorities: to foster ownership by local leaders, widen the base of actively supportive companies (including international buyers), and make change on the ground



Take aways

A risky situation can offer opportunities for a buying company to be 'part of the solution' – walking away is not necessarily the most responsible thing to do

Communicating responsible sourcing requirements through the supply chain back to the producer

Readiness to understand a producers' constraints and the full context in which they operate, and to actively to support in whichever way is most appropriate and effective.

This 'VTTV' approach is additional to, and compatible with certification





earthworm

© Igor Podgorny / Greenpeace