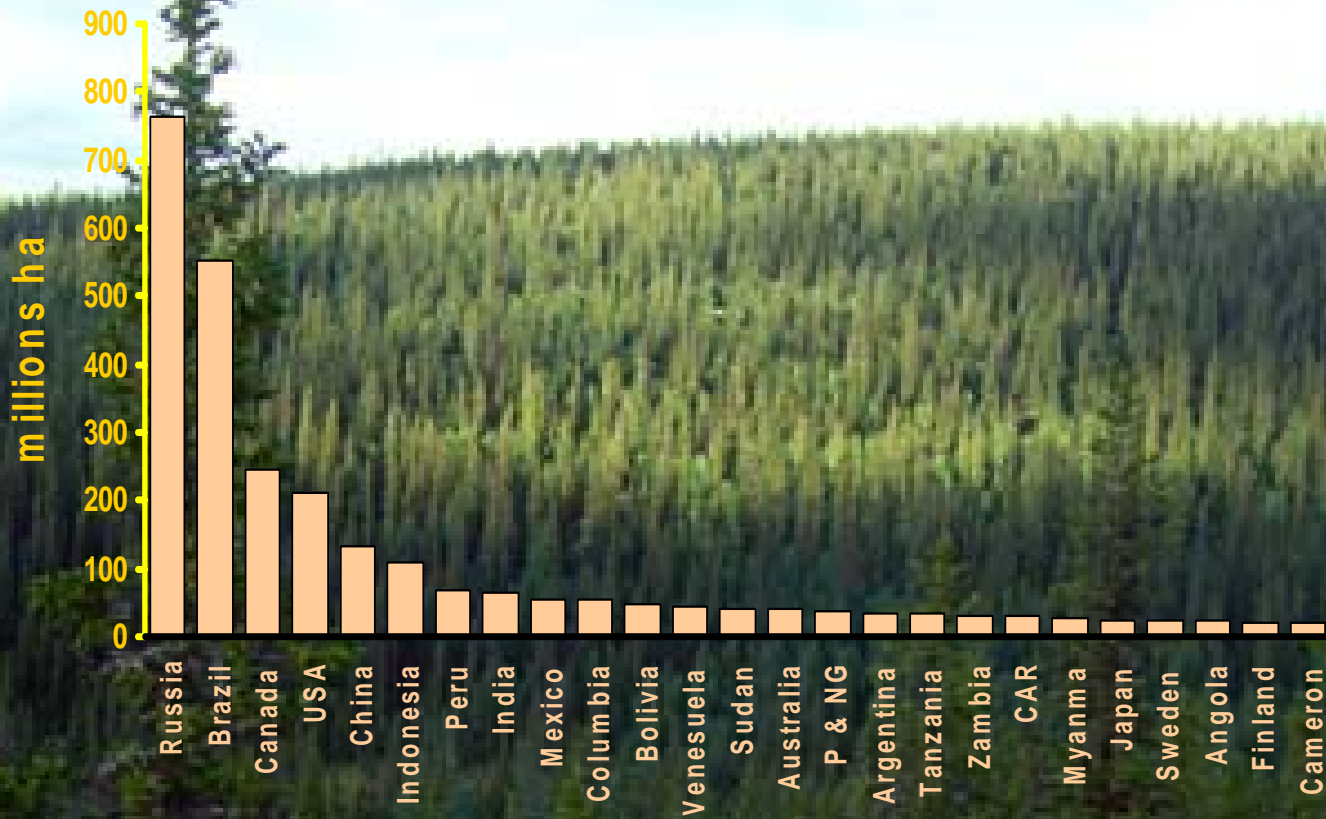


Assessment of Illegal Logging

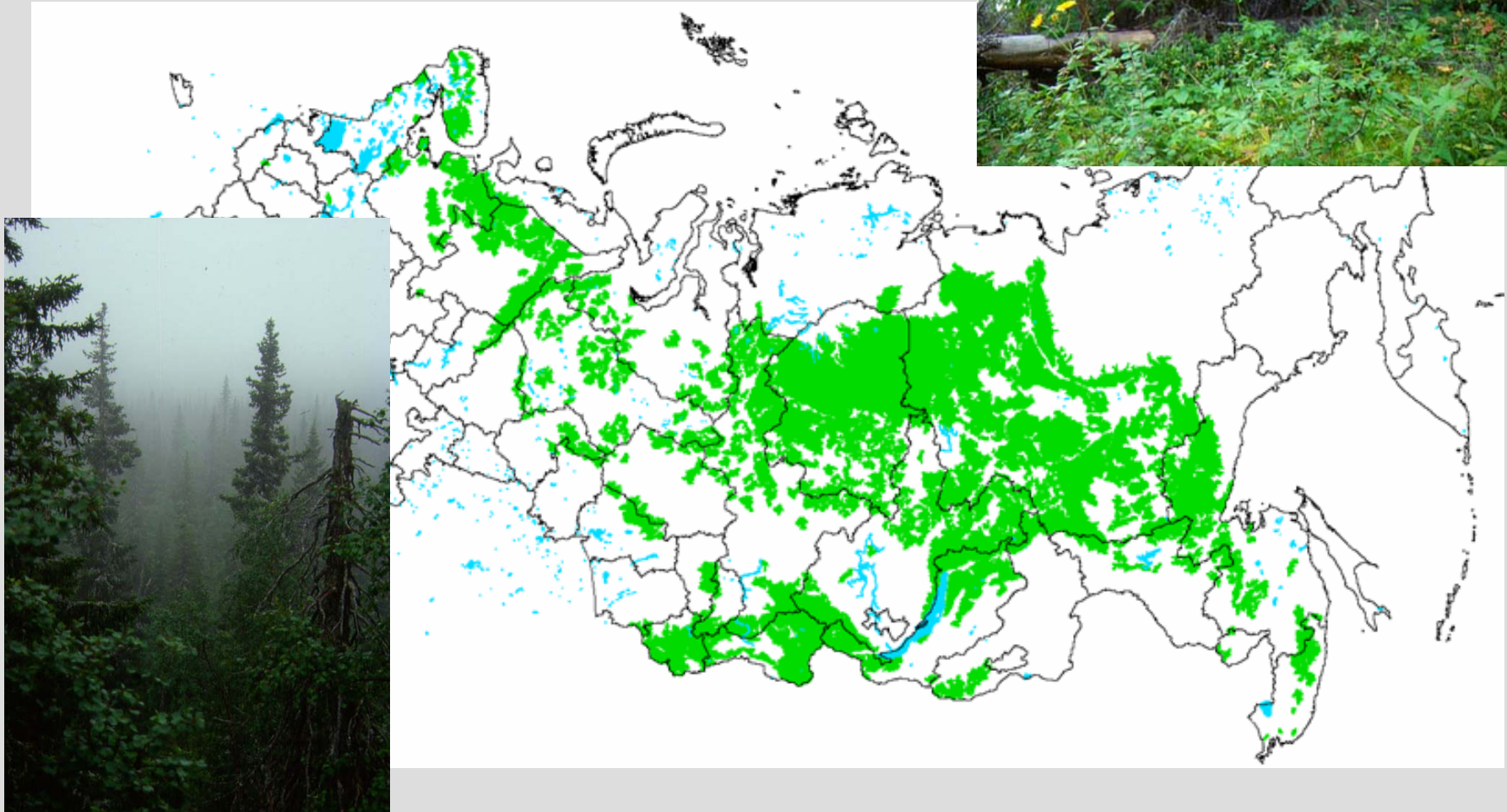
A photograph showing a large stack of cut logs in a snowy forest. The logs are piled high, with their circular ends facing the viewer, showing a light brown wood grain. Snow is scattered on top of the logs and on the ground around them. The background is a dense forest of trees, some with snow on their branches.

• *Russian Far East Case Study*

Russian is the leading country in the world by amount of forest resources...
(at least according to official data)



... the largest tracts of Earth's remaining frontier forests lie within Russia..



...in Russia illegal wood logging has become a usual thing, and in some regions the share of illegal timber in the total turnover of logged wood is getting more and more significant...

...According to WWF RPO at least 25-30% of timber harvested in Russia are from illegal source....

Which Wood Does the WWF assign to Category of Illegally Logged?

1. In legal final felling operations (FFO):

- *logged in excess of allowable amounts*
- *logged beyond allotment borders*
- *wood of species forbidden from cutting or not permitted to be cut on a site*
- *wood logged with violation of cutting technology*



Which Wood Does the WWF assign to Category of Illegally Logged?

2. Industrial wood logged over the fixed quota in the conduct of intermediate cuttings.



Which Wood Does the WWF assign to Category of Illegally Logged?

3. Illegally logged wood:

- large-scale and selective cuttings without permits
- large-scale cuttings on the basis of forged or illegal permits



The Purpose of the Present Survey

To assess of Illegal Logging
within Concrete Region –
- Russian Far East

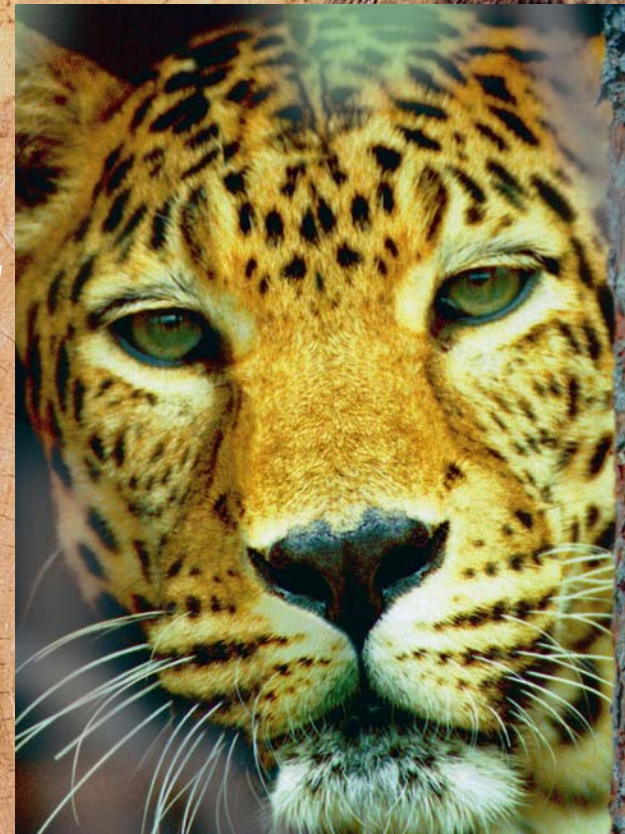


Why Russian Far East?

This territory is one of 200 ecoregions of global value:

- forests of boreal, moderate and subtropical zones perfectly coexist here

- unique cedar-broadleaved forests is the home of rare and beautiful animals such as Amur tigers, Far Eastern leopards, Black bear



Why Russian Far East?

Most part of the Russian forests with prevailing of commercially valuable tree species (oak, ash, elm, cedar etc.) grows in RFE (63%)

*middlemen pay from \$80 to \$200
for one cub. m of these trees
depending on quality*



Why Russian Far East?

RFE is situated so far away from Russian capital and very close to fast progressing “wild” Asian market



Methodical approach to the assessment:

Proper account of inflow and outflow of timber in the region:

inflow timber:

- *legal logging*
- *illegal logging*
- *import from another regions*

outflow timber:

- *domestic consumption*
- *export to another Russian regions*
- *timber processing followed by export*
- *legal roundwood export*
- *illegal roundwood export.*

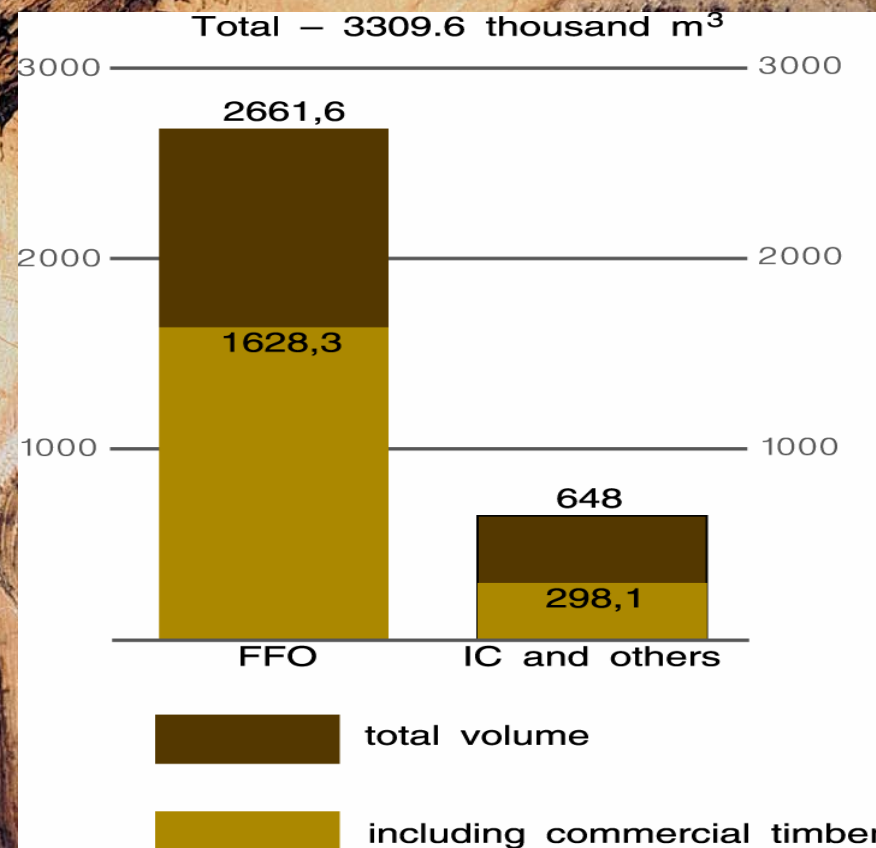
Data sources used in the analytical reference:

- 1. Official statistical reports from state organizations:*
 - Foreign Affairs Committee*
 - Custom Office*
 - Natural Resources Ministry*
 - Regional administration offices*
- 2. Articles in regional and central Mass Media*
- 3. Articles in e-Mass Media*
- 4. Analytical and statistical information from environmental NGO's*

Some examples of assessment

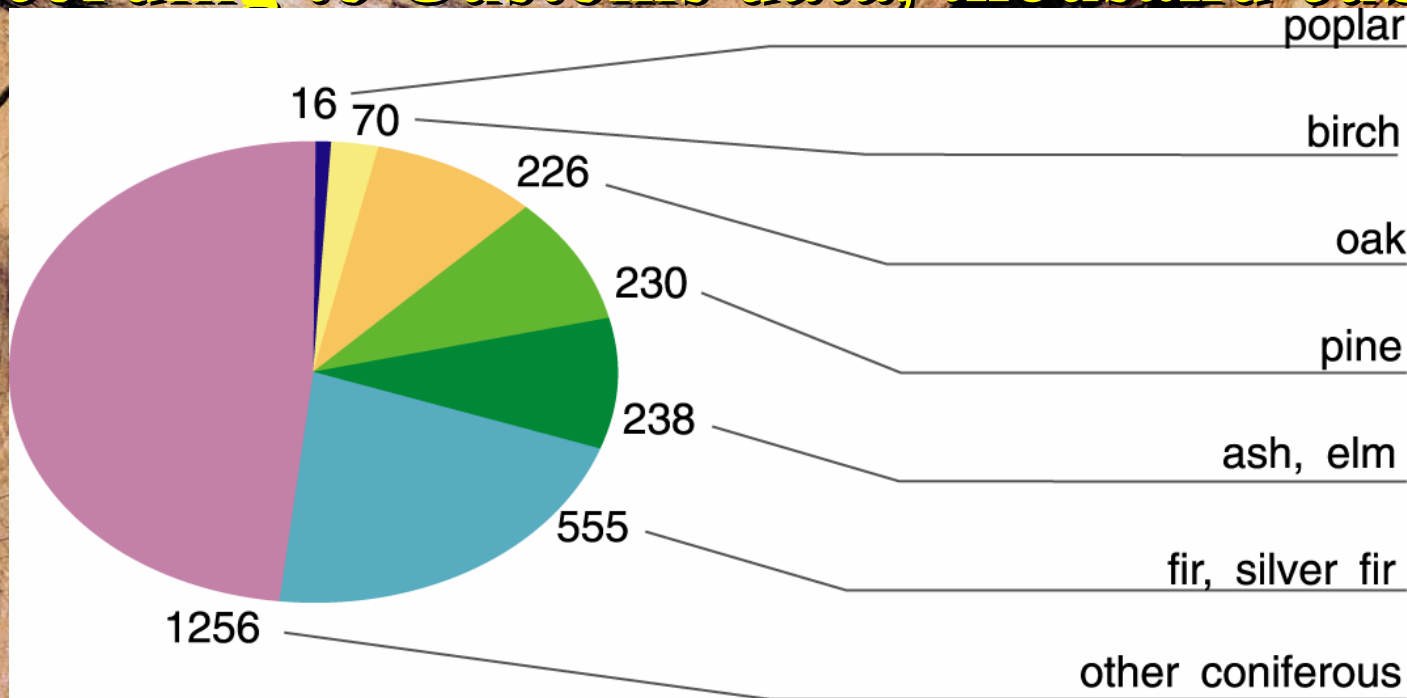
Volume of timber logged in Primorye Data from Primorye Forest Service (PFS), 2000 (thousand cub. m)

*According to official figures,
3,309.6 ths. cub. m of
merchantable wood was cut
including 1,926.4 ths. cub. m
of commercial timber*



Some examples of assessment

Volume and varieties of timber exported from Primorye in the year 2000
(according to Customs data, thousand cub. m)



All in all, 2,290 ths. cub. m of unsawed commercial wood was exported from Primorye in 2000.

Some examples of assessment

Volumes of Industrial Round Wood Logged and Exported from Russian Far East in 2000 (in million cub. m):

Region	Logged	Exported
Primorskiy Krai	1,90	2,59
Khabarovskiy Krai	4,40	5,15

-700,000 cubic meters more commercial timber was exported from the Primorye region than was cut
-For the Khabarovsk region the corresponding figure is 800,000 cubic meters

Some examples of assessment

To produce 72,000 cub m of sawed timber exported from Primorye in 2000 required another 150,000 cub m of timber

So, a comparison of official data provided by Customs and PFS shows that the export of round timber and sawed timber exceeds the production of commercial timber in the territory by 850,000 cub. m.

Some examples of assessment

Density of timber species (ton/cub m) exported from the Primorye in the first half of 2001

	Reference data (for fresh cut trees)	For timber exported to China	For timber exported to Japan
Spruce	0,77	0,80	0,72
Other coniferous	0,77	0,82	0,85
Ash	0,98	1,07	0,99
Oak	0,99	1,10	0,99
Other	0,80	1,01	0,77
Pine	0,72	0,82	0,75
Birch	0,91	0,98	0,77
Poplar	0,75	0,87	0,70

Some examples of assessment

Exporters overstate the density of the timber, which leads to understatement of the volume

-In 1998, 476,000 tons, or 464,000 cub m, of commercial timber was exported to China. In other words, the average density was above unity (!), which is impossible in reality.

-If one calculates the amount of timber exports from the Primorye in 2000 by weight and compares it against the standart density parameters for fresh-cut timber, another 50,000-100,000 cub m will have to be add to the timber that is exported illegally .

Some results of assessment

An analysis of data on the export of timber from the Primorie region leads to the conclusion:

- illegal harvesting of wood in Primorie stands at no less than 1.5 million cubic metres.

In conducting FFO

Up to 500 thousands cub m

In conducting intermediate cuts

Up to 500 thousands cub m

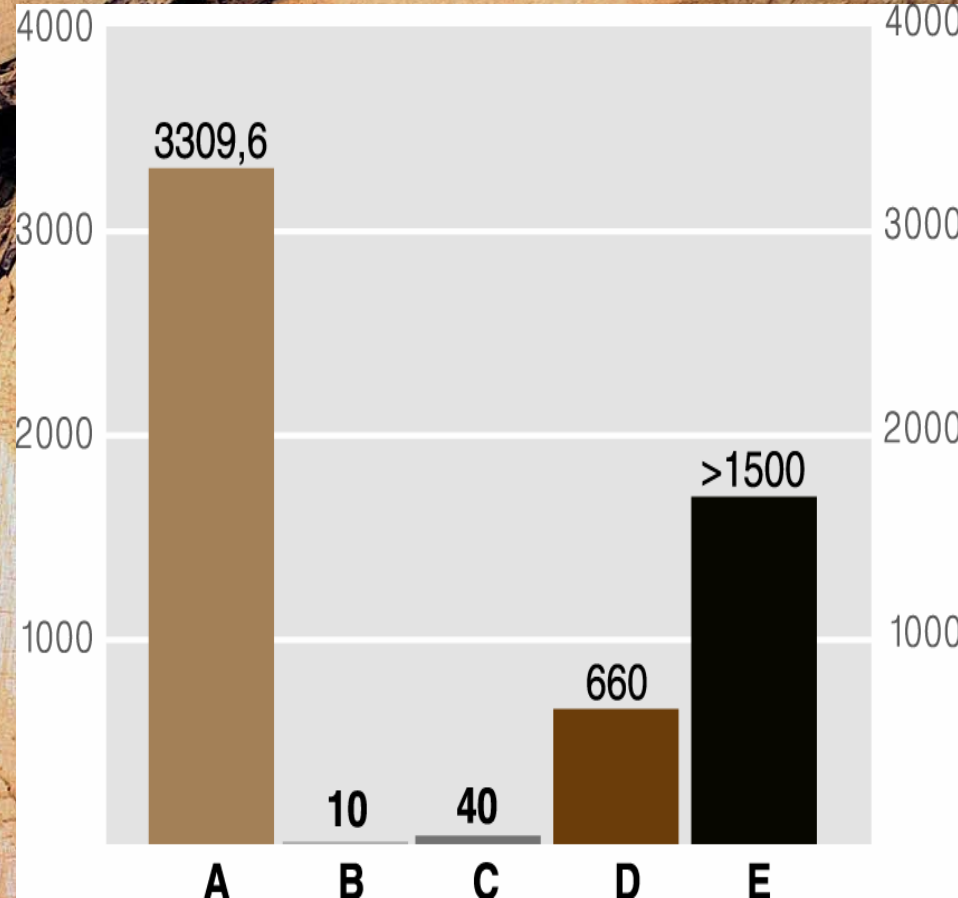
Poaching cuts

From 250 to 500 ths cub m

Some results of assessment

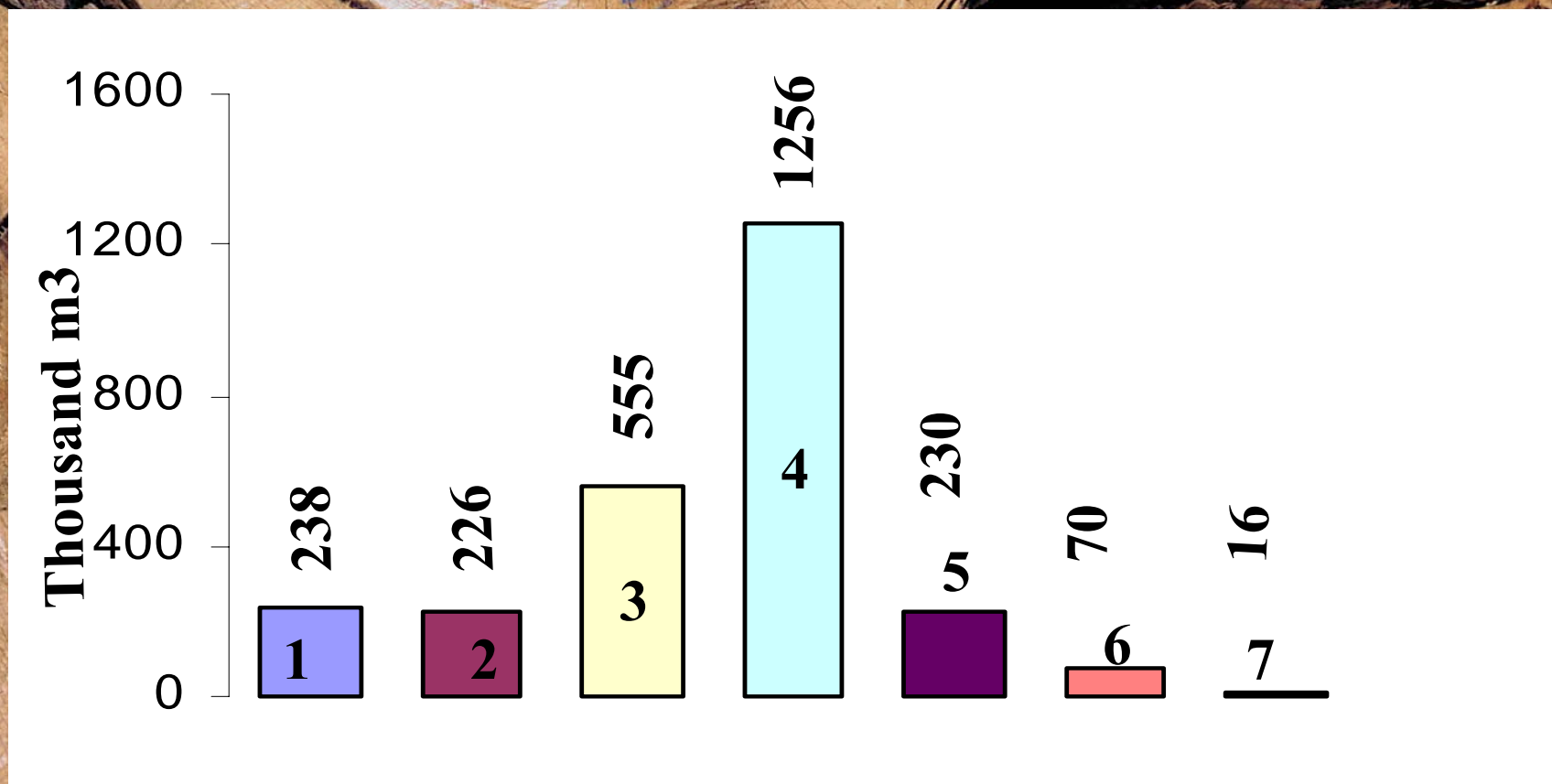
Official data and estimates for volume of legally and illegally cut timber in the Primorye region

- A – Total logging volume (FFO and IC together)*
- B – Volume of illegally cut timber according to regional administration data*
- C – Volume of timber confiscated from illicit cutters according to Regional Interior Ministry data*
- D - Volume of illegally logged timber as estimated by Greenpeace*
- E - Volume of illegally logged timber as estimated by WWF*



Some examples of assessment

Varieties of timber exported from Primorye in the year 2000 (according to Customs data)



1- ash, elm; 2 – oak; 3 – spruce, fir; 4 – other coniferous;
5 – pine; 6 – birch; 7 – poplar

Some examples of assessment

A comparison of harvesting and export reveals that in 2000 about 70% of hardwoods timber (oak, ash and elm) is harvested illegally

Official annual limits for harvesting hardwood

250,000-
260,000

Crossed the border (by Russian customs report)

400,000-
500,000

Crossed the border (by Japanese and Chinese customs report)

500,000-
600,000

Harvested in reality (by cutters and traders)

100,000

Some examples of assessment

Possible illegal timber import schemes

Legally cut wood and illegally harvested timber

Documenting valuable wood and wood prohibited from cutting as low-value timber

Documenting export through one-day firms

Documenting saw timber as pulpwood

Illegal export without documents

Understating export amounts

Export using fake documents

Railway crossing points

Motor crossing points

Merchant ports

Military ports

China, Korea, Japan

Some conclusions

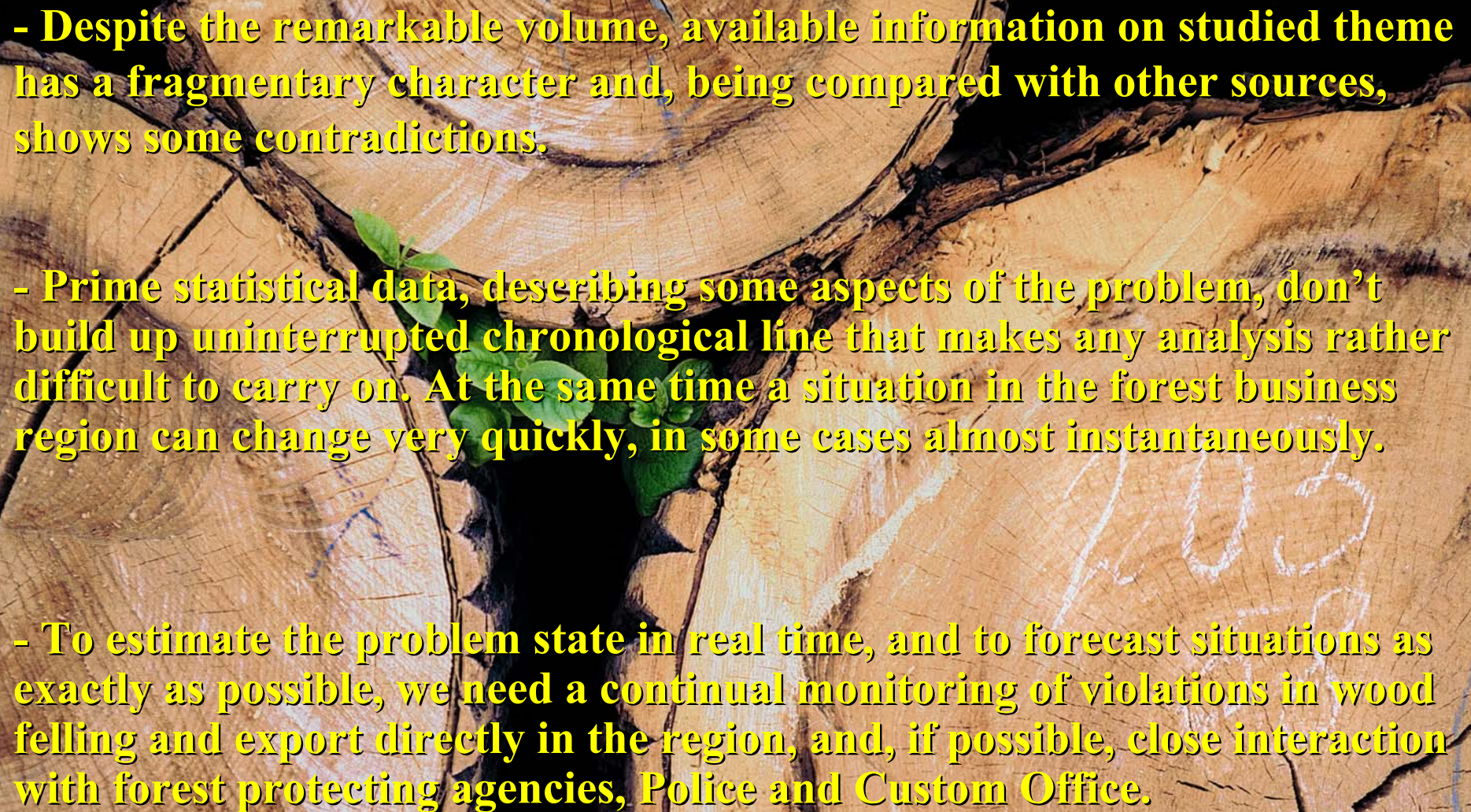
- 1. Volumes of illegally logged wood in Russian Far East (RFE) is comparable with legal ones.**
- 2. Total volume of wood passing by the official statistical reports can reach 1,500,000 m³ per annum in only one Primorskiy region.**
- 3. Illegal logging value in Primorie region is estimated as US\$150 million per year, which equals 50% of the Region's annual budget.**

Some conclusions

4. In spite of rising activity of Nature protecting agencies and controlling state structures the tendency to increasing of violation events in wood logging and export remains unchanged.

5. General causes of large-scale illegal logging and export are following: imperfective forestry system, inefficient forest protection, imperfective legislative base, still opened social and economic problems in the region.

Some technical remarks

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- Despite the remarkable volume, available information on studied theme has a fragmentary character and, being compared with other sources, shows some contradictions.
 - Prime statistical data, describing some aspects of the problem, don't build up uninterrupted chronological line that makes any analysis rather difficult to carry on. At the same time a situation in the forest business region can change very quickly, in some cases almost instantaneously.
 - To estimate the problem state in real time, and to forecast situations as exactly as possible, we need a continual monitoring of violations in wood felling and export directly in the region, and, if possible, close interaction with forest protecting agencies, Police and Custom Office.

LET'S SAVE THE UNIQUE FORESTS OF RUSSIA'S FAR EAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

