

# New industrial-scale development in Intact Forest Landscapes

Greenpeace Policy, July 2009

**Intact Forest Landscapes** (IFLs) are the largest blocks of intact forests left on Earth. They host a major share of the world's biodiversity and terrestrial carbon, and their conservation is **crucial for the global climate** and the future of life on Earth.<sup>1</sup>

Greenpeace recognises that **climate change will have a negative impact on IFLs** and calls on the international community to agree an international climate agreement that will both tackle climate change, ensure zero deforestation and protect biodiversity.

Greenpeace is calling for ecologically-responsible and socially-just management of the world's forests, including a global network of forest protected areas (PAs) prioritising the protection of the world's IFLs and other high-conservation value forests (HCVFs)<sup>2</sup>.

Greenpeace is very concerned that industrial-scale projects and operations are degrading IFLs at an accelerated pace, without proper prior protection. Furthermore, the **lack of governance** in many forest regions is preventing participatory land-use planning and the establishment of protected areas. Such land-use plans are **essential for safeguarding the biodiversity and carbon-rich values** found in IFLs.

## Intact Forest Landscapes:

1. Greenpeace believes **moratoria must be implemented for new industrial-scale projects/activities<sup>3</sup> (or the expansion of existing projects<sup>4</sup>) in IFLs** until:
  - participatory eco-regional conservation and land-use planning processes which prioritise protection of biodiversity and carbon-rich values have been completed, and;
  - such measures have been carried out with the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples and other traditional forest users.

A key element of these plans is the identification and comprehensive protection of all IFLs and HCVFs in each eco-region<sup>5</sup>. These IFLs and HCVFs must be maintained through a network of representative PAs resulting from conservation and land-use planning in each eco-region (specifically, irreplaceable or vulnerable HCVFs), and by incorporating safeguards into management plans in areas outside of PAs.<sup>6</sup>

Moratoria should also include new or expanded industrial-scale logging operations in IFLs that may be seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification until the above moratoria requirements are fulfilled. These minimum requirements should be incorporated into regional and national FSC forest management standards (indicators and verifiers developed to meet FSC Principles & Criteria).

## Countries and regions with poor governance:

2. Greenpeace demands **moratoria on new industrial-scale development activities and/or the expansion of existing projects in forests of countries and regions without a minimum level of governance<sup>7</sup>**. This minimum level of governance must be achieved as a precondition for credible and fair land use and conservation planning.

These moratoria also include new or expanded industrial-scale logging operations that may be seeking FSC certification, because credible certification depends on a minimum level of governance and credible land use and conservation planning. These minimum requirements should be incorporated into regional and national FSC forest management standards (indicators and verifiers developed to meet FSC Principles & Criteria).

## Notes

1. IFLs are defined as unfragmented areas larger than 500 km<sup>2</sup> within the forest zone, which are minimally disturbed by human activities (see also: [www.intactforests.org](http://www.intactforests.org)).
2. For a definition of 'High-Conservation Value Forests', see the glossary of the Principles & Criteria of the FSC at:  
[www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content\\_areas/77/134/files/FSC\\_STD\\_01\\_001\\_V4\\_0\\_EN\\_FSC\\_Principles\\_and\\_Criteria.pdf](http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/77/134/files/FSC_STD_01_001_V4_0_EN_FSC_Principles_and_Criteria.pdf)
3. Industrial development includes large-scale activities such as mining, pipelines, new highways, dams, agriculture, logging and forestry. Industrial forestry is the large-scale management and manipulation of a forest for the narrow purpose of wood production for industrial use.
4. 'Expansion of logging operations' is defined as an enterprise moving into new forest management units (typically forest areas more than 100 km<sup>2</sup>) and/or new areas of existing forest management units that do not yet have any infrastructure (logging roads, etc.), or have only a low level of infrastructure (or, are moving beyond existing and currently executed forest management plans).
5. Eco-regions are units of land typically 10-20 million hectares in size and with a distinct assemblage of flora and fauna (see also: Olson et al., 2001. Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World. Bio Science 51:933-938).
6. Within the PA network, any industrial-scale activities must be excluded. PAs should be a mixture of strictly protected areas (or core zones), managed exclusively for their conservation, and community-protected areas (or buffer zones) involving small-scale and low-impact activities, managed for both conservation and community benefits. This can follow the model of the IUCN PA categories.
7. Greenpeace considers countries without minimum-level governance to be those that rank in the 0-10<sup>th</sup> percentile of any of the six of the World Bank's governance indicators, and/or those that rank in the 10-25<sup>th</sup> percentile of two or more of the indicators. The indicators are:
  - voice and accountability
  - political stability
  - government effectiveness
  - regulatory quality
  - rule of law
  - control of corruption

The ranking for 2007 can be found at: [info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc\\_country.asp](http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc_country.asp).