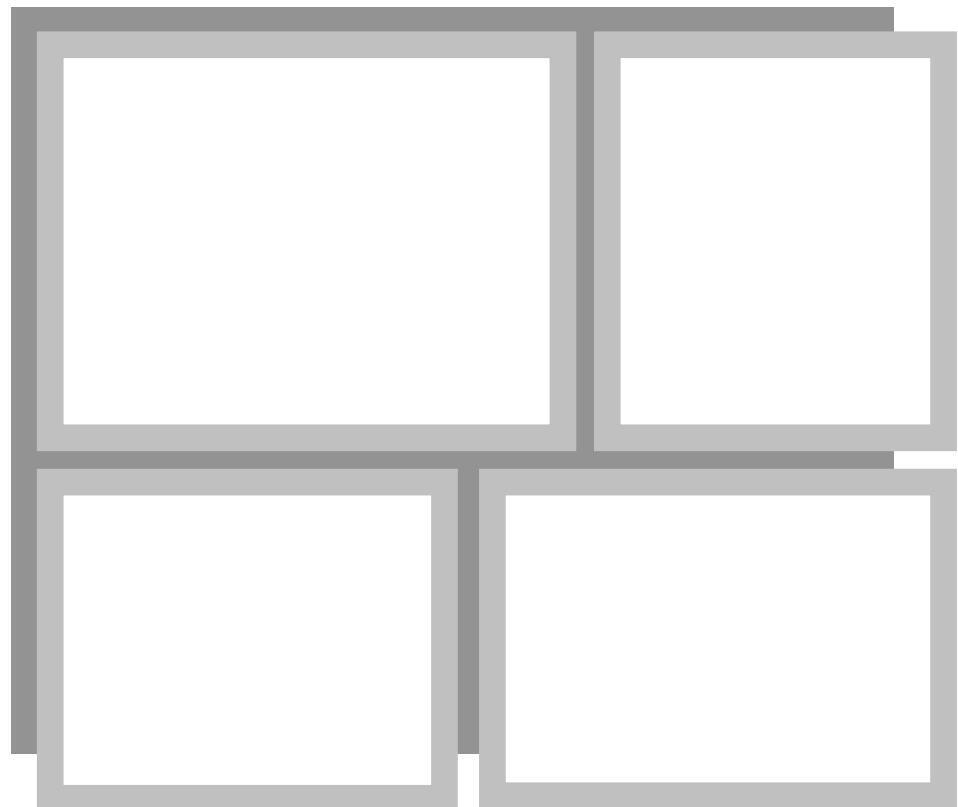


**IUCN Global Temperate and Boreal Forest Programme  
IUCN Office for Russia and the Commonwealth  
of Independent States**

**THE BEGINNING OF THE ENA FLEG PROCESS  
IN RUSSIA:  
PUBLIC OPINION POLLS**

**Materials for Ministerial Conference  
(St. Petersburg, Russia, November 22–25, 2005)**



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This publication includes the results of three independent public opinion polls (May-October, 2005) carried out in a framework of the Europe and Northern Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance process (ENA-FLEG), primarily emerging from the project entitled: "Forest governance and illegal logging: Improving legislation and interagency relations in Russia". This project was carried out with financial support from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the United States, through its Voluntary Contribution to IUCN.

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## Resume

The results of three independent polls of public opinion conducted in May-October 2005, in which more than 2100 people were polled, allow us to come to the following conclusions:

**58-89% of respondents think that in Russia there are serious problems with the law in the forest sector** (illegal cuttings, poaching and forest lands take-over). Only 5-10% of respondents think that there are no such problems.

**51-86% of respondents think that the authorities inefficiently address the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector** (combating illegal cuttings, poaching and forest lands take-over). Only 6-16% of respondents think that the authorities efficiently deal with these problems.

**50-70% of respondents are ready to assist the authorities in combating crime in the forest sector.** 10-31%, however, are not inclined to do so.

**62-80% of respondents are unaware of how to contact the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector or have difficulties with answering this question.** 20-38 % of respondents do know how to contact law enforcement bodies.

**41-67% of respondents consider that the authorities are not ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing the problems of combating crime in the forest sector while 61% of respondents are unaware of such interaction.** 20% of respondents think that this interaction occurs on a case-by-case basis and is inefficient. Nevertheless, 15-28% of respondents believe that the authorities are ready to cooperate with public, while 5% think that this cooperation is very efficient.

Thus, the majority of Russians believe that the problem with law enforcement in forest is rather serious, but the actions taken by the authorities to address it are inefficient. More than half of Russians are ready to assist the authorities in combating crime in the forest sector, although on the whole they are unaware of where these authorities are or how to contact them. An overwhelming majority of the population thinks that the authorities are not ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing law enforcement issues in the forest sector.

### Information

In 2004 Russia exported:

- **41.5 million cubic meter roundwood** (31% of the world international trade). The main importers of the Russian roundwood are China, Finland, Japan, Sweden, Korea and Estonia.
- **13.1 million cubic meter sawn materials** (10.7% of the world international trade). The main importers of the Russian sawn materials are Egypt, China, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Iran and Italy
- **2.6 million ton of paper and cardboard** (2.4% of the world international trade). The main importers of the Russian paper and cardboard are China, India, Germany, Turkey, United Kingdom, Iran and Ireland.

## Chapter 1

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESEARCH PUBLIC OPINION TO ENSURE EFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN FOREST SECTOR

In preparation of the international programs for improving forest governance and law enforcement, including elimination of the illegal logging and related forest trade, the country specifics is of great importance. Attempts to use mechanisms, which known to work efficiently in some countries can failed or even lead to results opposite to the expected in others due to different conditions.

Thus, the legal system in the US efficiently counteracts mass violations of laws regulating management of the national forests. Each year dozens, if not hundreds, lawsuits force American authorities follow the rule of law. The US administration actively made attempts to change the legal base, first of all, related to environmental impact assessments, public information, public comments and protection of endangered species habitats. However, even in this process the administration was again forced to follow the existing laws and procedures. The US experience is highly positive and deserves wide promotion internationally, but automatic attempts to transfer this system to countries, where independent, strong and efficient court system is absent, will not bring expected results.

If the EU adopted law banning import of illegal forest products, european importers, by no means, will demonstrate certificates of legality. However, the main problem is how such certificates will be issued in producer countries? Many these countries will consider the demand of having independent control as a serious sovereignty problem. Legality certificates issued under governmental control in countries with high corruption could create new administrative barriers and opportunities for extra bribes. Such examples are already known for Indonesia and Brazil.

Establishment of a unified database on forest products imported to the EU could help to strengthen the control in this area. Establishment of a similar system in exporter countries characterized by high level of corruption can lead to fabrication of criminal cases and growing demand for bribes. In a case of leakage of this information to third parties, including criminal structures (which happens regularly), it can be used for racketing forest businesses striving to work legally.

When developing international programs related to the law enforcement, which will include joint actions of the countries with very different levels of corruption, strong corruption analysis and establishment of “fool proof” system are needed.

Europe and Northern Asia (ENA) region, where the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Ministerial Conference will take place in November 2005, is a much more complex when compared to South-East Asia (2001 Ministerial Conference) or Africa (2003 Ministerial Conference).

Obviously, countries of both Africa and Asia have their own specifics. However, usually in these regions the situation is simpler. Producers and exporters are developing countries. Most of them have serious problems with governance, which are reflected by the high level of corruption. For some producers export of forest products is the key source of the revenues. Importers are mostly developed countries with low level of corruption. For these countries import of forest products from FLEG partner countries is not crucially important and they can easily replace one supplier by another.

During the last years the most visible results in the sphere of international collaboration aimed at strengthening forest law enforcement and governance have been achieved for such type relations.

In case when we see forest trade between exporters (Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Burma etc.) and importers (China and Malaysia) known for serious problems with efficiency and responsibility of the governance system, there are no successful results related to the forest law enforcement and governance. Numerous reports presented by environmental NGOs and mass media publications show very active ongoing international illegal timber trade in triangle Indonesia — Malaysia — China.

The peculiar ENA region is Russia – the largest producer and exporter of timber and forest products of the suspicious origin. On another hand Russia is the G8 member and in 2006 will chair in this structure. As far as the efficiency and responsibility of the governance indicated by corruption level is concerned, Russia appeared to be quite different when compared to the other G8 members.

The commonly internationally recognized indicator of corruption is the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) annually published by NGO Transparency International. For preparing CPI numerous studies and assessments conducted by experts and business community representatives are used. CPI can vary from 10 (the lowest level of corruption) to 0 (the highest level). In 2005, assessment of the CPI was published for 159 of the total 200 countries of the world.

In 2004, CPI for Russia was 2.8. In 2005 Russian CPI fell down to 2.4. In 2005, as far as related to corruption, Russia keeps the position between Honduras (CPI 2.6) and Papua New Guinea (CPI 2.3). This is in strong contrast to the other G8 members.

In these countries, the level of corruption is much lower, being incomparable with Honduras and Papua New Guinea, saying nothing about the globally most corrupted counties located in the ENA FLEG region, such as Turkmenistan (CPI 1.8). In 2005, CPI in the UK was 8.6, Canada 8.4, Germany 8.2, USA 7.6, France 7.5, Japan 7.0. Among the G8 members the closest to Russia in terms of corruption is Italy (CPI 5.0).

Looking to corruption, the G8 members are not the best examples in the world. There are much less corrupted countries. What is interesting, some of them are actively involved in forest trade with Russia. These excellent examples are Finland (CPI 9.6 – the second less corrupted country in the world!), Denmark (CPI 9.5), Sweden (CPI 9.2) and Austria (CPI 8.7).

During the last years in Russia we observe the more active intervention of the authorities (their corruption capacity was presented above) in operations by the private sector. It exerts a negative effect on business environment. The country lacks efficient and really independent court system. All it leads to deep public mistrust to activities by the authorities.

The trust and common understanding among various stakeholders – government, civil society and private sector – is of great importance for improving forest law enforcement and governance. In the absence of the common understanding of what is legal and equitable and what is not, implementation of one-side approach based only on proposals by governmental bureaucracy representatives can result in establishment of new administrative barriers for legal producers, growth of corruption and greater social tensions.

The need to seriously address corruption was reflected in the documents of the ENA-FLEG Joint Civil Society and Forest Industry Preparatory Event conducted by The Forest Dialogue. This joint meeting between representatives of the world leading environmental and social NGOs and forest industries took place in November 2–3, 2005 in Saint Petersburg.

Participants of this event argued delegates of the coming Ministerial ENA-FLEG conference: “Corruption must be openly recognized and directly addressed as an urgent priority. More regulation without addressing corruption leads to further corruption and fraud – leading to the greater social injustices. It undermines confidence in the rule of law, penalizes legitimate business, further impoverishes disadvantaged communities and ultimately works against sustainable forest management”.

According to information by NIPIELesprom, Russian forest export increased from 3.3 billion USD in 1996 to 6.4 billion USD in 2004. Between 1998 and 2004 Russian roundwood export grew from 20 million cubic meters to 41.5 million cubic meters; sawnwood from 4.6 million cubic meters to 13.1 million cubic meters; paper and cardboard, from 1,8 million tons to 2,6 million tons. In 2004, Russian export constituted 31.4% of the world roundwood international trade, 10.7% sawnwood, 7.1% plywood and 2.4% paper and cardboard.

Most of exported roundwood is logged in Northwestern, Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts. The main importers of the Russian roundwood are China (36%), Finland (28%), Japan (16%), Sweden (7%), Korea (4%) and Estonia (3%).

The major regions of production of exported sawn materials are Northwestern and Siberian Federal Districts. The major importers of Russian sawn materials are Egypt (9%), China (8%), Japan (5%), the United Kingdom (5%), Germany (5%), Iran (4%) and Italy (4%).

The major importers of the Russian paper and cardboard are China (10%), India (10%), Germany (9%), Turkey (8%), the United Kingdom (6%), Iran (5%) and Ireland (4%).

These importers could be interested to learn more about law enforcement in the Russian forest sector and public opinion on this matter. Of particular importance these issues could be for such less corrupted countries globally as Finland (CPI 9.6), Sweden (CPI 9.2), UK (CPI 8.6), Germany (CPI 8.2) and Japan (CPI 7.3).

For representatives of China (CPI 3.2), which in last years became the largest importer of Russian forest products, this issue could be not so urgent. Its governance level does not differ significantly from Russia (CPI 2.4-2.8). However, for importers of the goods, produced by processing Russian wood on Chinese mills to markets, sensitive to legality of timber origin (primarily, EU and US), there are reasons for consider that. Currently, Indonesia (CPI 2.2) provides China timber processing industry with cheap, but not quite legal tropical wood, while Russia (CPI 2.4) delivers same quality boreal forest timber.

According to the official Russian statistics, in 2004 and the first half of the 2005, the volume of illegal logging was estimated in not more than 0.7–0.8 million cbm per year. It is less than 0.5% of official annual harvesting level in Russia (150–180 million cbm). If it is true, Russian forest users must to be rated among most legal, while the Russian system of forest management among most efficient globally.

In drastic contrast to these data are numerous public statements made by top level authorities, including regional governors, about the very high level of illegal activity in the forest sector. In some regions (Vologda Oblast, Far Eastern Federal District) they confessed that the government has lost control after logging and timber export.

Environmental NGOs experts (Greenpeace, WWF and BROCC) based on a number of studies made since the mid-1990s implemented in different regions of Russia show the level of illegal logging in 20–30% from the overall annual harvest. Keeping in mind usually absent Environmental Impact Assessment of forest management plans, the level of illegality of the Russian timber could be even higher.

Only in the last months, looking on results of monitoring based on remote sensing (space and aerial) data, the leaders of the Federal Forestry Agency started to recognize a real scale of illegal logging and other legal violations in Russian forests. This calls for a need to seriously re-consider the efficiency of the Russian forest management system. Problems with transparency of the Russian forest sector are worsening by the fact that Russia still did not join the Aarhus Convention.

Under this situation, the analysis of public opinion on seriousness of legal violations, efficiency of the governmental activity for tackling this problem, governmental and civil society collaboration is of significant importance. Changes in public opinion with time could be used as one of the most independent and objective tools to assess the efficiency of activities aimed at improvement of forest law enforcement and governance.

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\* \* \*

In the following chapters there are results of polls carried out with use of Internet-site [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru) (300 respondents, May - September 2005), the All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) (1600 respondents, September, 2005), and also an NGO “Ecodal” in Khabarovsk krai (190 respondents, August - September 2005).

In Chapter 3 of this publication there is a report prepared by experts of VCIOM with the minimal technical editing. Other texts of the review are prepared by A.Grigoriev. The opinions stated in the review reflect a position of their authors and not necessarily coincide with a position of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, donors of the project and any other structures.

Studying of a public opinion was carried out within a framework of IUCN project «Forest governance and illegal logging: Improving legislation and interagency relations in Russia», carried out at financial support of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Result of the project should become the improvement of informing of the interested parties about lacks and gaps of the forest and civil legislation regulating work of Russian forest sector. The understanding of a role of the government, civil society and private sector on the issues of forest management and combating illegal logging should be improved, more effective and coordinated actions and active participation in the international process on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).

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## Chapter 2

### RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT VIA INTERNET WEB-SITE WWW.FOREST.RU

Internet poll at [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru) was initiated in May 2005. Responses actively came in until August 2005. Besides [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru) sites of other environmental organizations took part in the poll – ECOM (St. Petersburg) and WWF-Russia (Moscow).

This poll has helped to select a set of questions for further activities expediently and at minimum cost. At first the participants were asked to answer four questions. After evaluating first results it was decided to add one more question to the initial four. This set of five questions was finally used in the course of public polls in Kemerovskaya and Kamchatskaya oblasts and Khabarovskiy krai and other areas of the Russian Federation. The results of the most representative poll conducted in Khabarovskiy krai are discussed in Chapter 4.

Internet site [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru) is visited on the average by some 1,000 people a day. These visitors comprise of nature conservation activists, pupils and students, researchers, teachers and journalists interested in the Russian and the World forests. This web-site is also visited by the staff of forestry institutions, nature conservation organizations and forest business sector. In general the audience of this site is distinguished by a rather high level of computer knowledge and the interest in forest sector and conservation issues.

Internet poll allowed us to find out the views of many people interested in the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector. It seems that in general the results of the poll are fairly representative and reflect the opinion of the conservation community, although they can with certain reservations be regarded as reflecting the situation in the entire country. Some interesting findings can be made when comparing the results of the Internet poll with that of All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), which can be viewed as the baseline poll.

The question **“Do you think that there are any serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector in your region (illegal cuttings, poaching and forest lands take-over)?”** was answered by 397 respondents, 88.7 % of which thought that these problems did exist, and only 4.5 % of respondents considered that there were no serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector in their region.

These results differ considerably from those of the VCIOM poll, according to which 59 % of respondents thought that there were serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector, while 16 % of respondents did not see any such problems. However if we compare the results of the Internet poll with VCIOM data for major forestry regions of the country these differences become much less striking. In the major forestry regions serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector were acknowledged by 77 % of respondents and only 10 % thought that such problems did not exist.

The question **“Do you think that in your region the authorities efficiently address problems related to law enforcement in the forest sector (combating illegal cuttings, poaching, forest lands take-over, etc.)?”** was answered by 316 people. Only 5.7 % of respondents believed that actions taken to combat illegal logging, poaching, forest lands take-over, etc. were efficient, while 85.8 % of respondents thought that actions taken by the authorities were inefficient.

Here the views of the participants of the Internet poll differ considerably from the mean results of the VCIOM poll. According to VCIOM data, in Russia in general 51 % of respondents considered the activities of the authorities inefficient, while 15 % were of the opposite opinion. However, here the results of the Internet poll also come close to the VCIOM findings for the major forestry regions. According to these findings 67 % of respondents regarded action taken by the authorities to address the issues of crime committed in the forest sector as inefficient while only 12 % held an opposite view.



The question “**Are you ready to assist the authorities in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector?**” was answered by 300 people, 73 % of which stated that they were ready to assist in these activities and only 10.3 % were not inclined to do so.

According to the Internet poll the number of respondents who are ready to assist the authorities in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector is considerably higher than that for Russia in general (according to VCIOM data – 51 %) while the number of people not inclined to do so is considerably less (according to VCIOM data – 29 %).

The question “**Do you know how to contact (official address, phone number or E-mail address) the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector?**” was answered by 307 people, 28 % of them gave a positive answer while 72 % were unaware of how to do it or had difficulties with answering this question. This percentage was close to that of the VCIOM poll under which 20 % of respondents knew how to contact relevant authorities while 80 % were unaware of it or had difficulties with answering.

The fifth question was worded later after receiving the initial results and read as follows: “Do you think that the authorities are ready to cooperate with public in addressing law enforcement issues in the forest sector?” It collected 150 answers, only 14.7 % of which reflected that the authorities were ready to such cooperation, while 66.7 % of respondents believed that the authorities were not prepared to such cooperation.

Within the framework of the VCIOM poll this question was worded in a different way (“**How would you describe interaction between your local official authorities responsible for combating crime in the forest sector and public organizations?**”), although the percentage of respondents is practically the same. Only 5 % of 1,600 VCIOM respondents thought this interaction to be efficient and productive, 20 % believed that it was on a case-by-case basis and low-productive and 61 % knew nothing of such interaction. 14 % of respondents had difficulties with answering this question.

## Chapter 3

### **FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE: ATTITUDE OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS**

#### **Analytical report of the sociological poll commissioned by IUCN — the World Conservation Union**

##### **3.1. Description of the Survey**

National survey was conducted by the All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM) on September 24–25, 2005. The sample included 1,600 respondents in 153 settlements in 46 regions of Russia and adequately represented the 18+ population by age, sex, education, type of a settlement and a Federal District in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Service of State Statistics (Rosstat).

The error does not exceed 3.4%.

The questionnaire of the survey commissioned by IUCN — The World Conservation Union contained five questions:

**1. Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)?**

1. Yes, there are serious problems
2. No, I see no problems here
3. The place where I live has no forest
4. Don't know

**2. Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)?**

1. Yes, in general, they have a success
2. No, their activities are not efficient
3. The place where I live has no forest
4. Don't know

**3. Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)?**

1. Yes, I know this very well
2. No, I have no this information
3. Don't know

**4. How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations?**

1. This interaction is efficient and fruitful
2. This interaction is ad hoc and not extremely productive
3. I do not know anything about such interaction
4. Don't know

**5. Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part? (any number of answers)**

1. Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)
2. Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.

3. Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest lands, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)
4. Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities
5. Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)
6. Donation of your money to forest conservation activities
7. I do not intend to take part in any of these activities
8. I do not care about the problem of forest conservation
9. Other, please specify
10. Don't know

### List of regions covered by the survey

#### Central Federal District

Belgorodskaya oblast  
Bryanskaya oblast  
Vladimirskaya oblast  
Voronezhskaya oblast  
Lipetskaya oblast  
Moscow  
Moskovskaya oblast  
Tverskaya oblast  
Yaroslavskaya oblast

#### Northwestern Federal District

Archangelskaya oblast  
Kaliningradskaya oblast  
Novgorodskaya oblast  
Republic of Karelia  
St. Petersburg

#### Southern Federal District

Astrakhanskaya oblast  
Volgogradskaya oblast  
Kabardino-Balkaria  
Karachaevo-Cherkessia  
Krasnodarsky krai  
Republic of Adygea  
Rostovskaya oblast  
Stavropolsky krai

#### Volga Federal District

Nizhegorodskaya oblast  
Orenburgskaya oblast  
Penzenskaya oblast  
Republic of Bashkortostan  
Republic of Mordovia  
Republic of Tatarstan  
Saratovskaya oblast  
Republic of Udmurtia

#### Urals Federal District

Kurganskaya oblast  
Sverdlovskaya oblast  
Tyumenskaya oblast  
Khanty-Mansiiskiy autonomous district

#### Siberian Federal District

Altaisky krai  
Kemerovskaya oblast  
Krasnoyarsky krai  
Novosibirskaya oblast  
Omskaya oblast  
Republic of Altai  
Republic of Buryatia  
Chitinskaya oblast

#### Far Eastern Federal District

Amurskaya oblast  
Primorsky krai  
Sakhalinskaya oblast

### 3.2. Violations in the Forest Sector: Importance of the Problem for the Russians

Most of the Russians (59%) assume that in their region there are serious problems related with the illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest lands and other violations in the forest sector. Only 16% do not mention any problems in this sphere. Another 15% say that there are no forests in the places where they live. And 10% find it difficult to answer this question.

Respondents, whose per capita monthly income in the household exceeds 3,000 rubles, are more concerned about the problems connected with the forests (67%) than people with lower revenues. For instance, within the group of those who earn 1,501–3,000 rubles, 61% of respondents mention serious problems in this area; within the low-income groups (below 1,500 rubles) – even fewer (47%) (see Table 3.1). Presumably, personal financial problems of the Russians with low incomes are more important for them than the problems of the forest sector.

Chart 3.1

«Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)?»

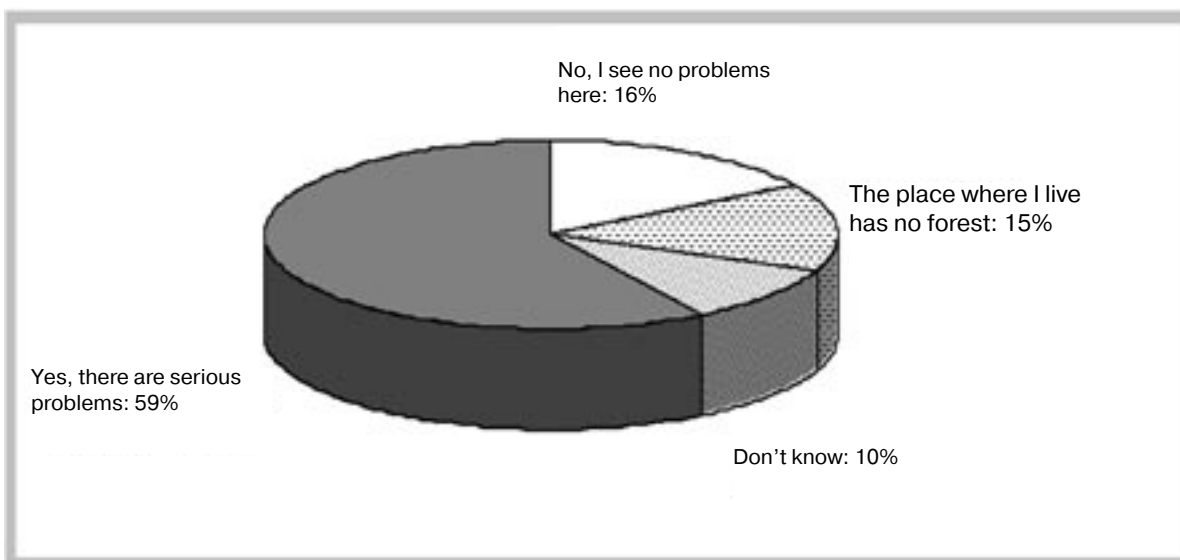


Table 3.1

Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)					
	All respondents	Per capita household monthly income, rubles			
		< 1500	1501–3000	3001–5000	> 5001
Yes, there are serious problems	59	47	61	67	67
No, I see no problems here	16	19	15	12	12
The place where I live has no forest	15	19	15	12	13
Don't know	10	15	9	9	8

Negative appraisal of the situation in the forest sector is typical for all federal districts. However, the most concerned are citizens of the Northwestern, Siberian, Urals and Far Eastern Federal Districts, where from 72 to 81% of respondents mention problems in this area (see Table 3.2). People in Central and Volga districts are less concerned about these matters – 53–59%. In the

Southern Federal District only 26% emphasize the serious violations in their District and nearly half (49%) of respondents say that there are no woods in their locations.

In general, the most favorable situation is in the Southern and Volga districts, where the ratio of positive and negative evaluations of the state of affairs is 1 to 2. The most difficult situation is in the Northwestern District, where this ratio is 1 to 10 in favor of negative evaluation of the situation in the forest sector.

Table 3.2

Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)								
	All respondents	Federal Districts						
		Central	Northwestern	Southern	Volga	Urals	Siberian	Far Eastern
Yes, there are serious problems	59	59	81	26	53	72	77	72
No, I see no problems here	16	13	8	12	28	11	16	18
The place where I live has no forest	15	18	9	49	4	–	2	3
Don't know	10	10	2	13	15	17	5	7

Respondents from timber production regions have more acute perception of the problems – the ration of positive to negative answers here is 1 to 8, whereas in the other areas it is 1 to 3 (see Table 3.3).

Table 3.3

Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)			
	All respondents	Timber production regions	Other regions
Yes, there are serious problems	59	77	53
No, I see no problems here	16	10	18
The place where I live has no forest	15	1	20
Don't know	10	12	9

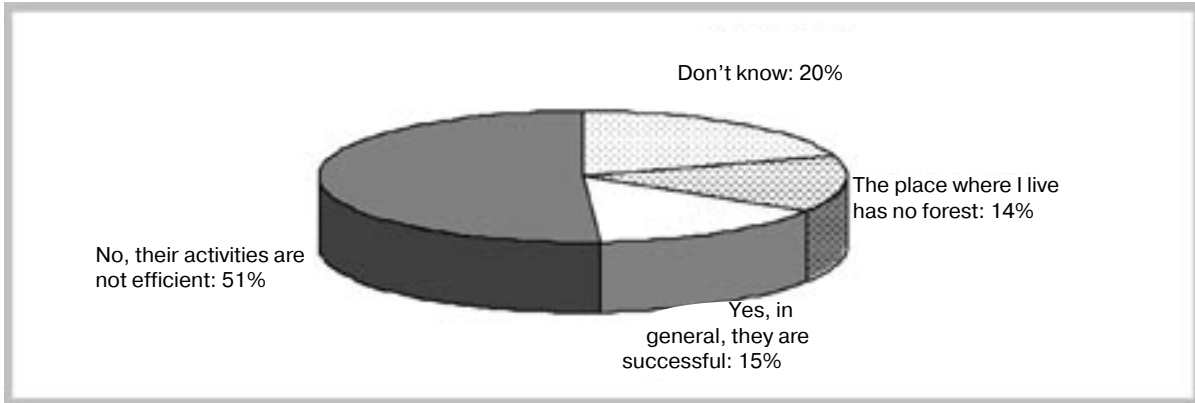
Therefore, violations of law in the forest sector cause grave concerns of the majority of the Russians. The situation in timber production regions is perceived to be even more intense. The utmost attention should be paid to the state of affairs in the Northwestern Federal District. The situation in the Volga District is perceived to be better, where a quarter of respondents assume that the situation in the forest sector is fine.

### 3.3. Activities of Authorities in Resolving the Problems of Violations in the Forest Sector: General Assessment

Every second Russian (51%) believes that the regional authorities are not taking efficient measures to prevent and resolve the problems related to the violations of law in the forest sector. Only 15% presume that this work is generally successful. Every fifth respondent find it difficult to evaluate the activities of the regional authorities.

Chart 3.2

« Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? »



The most critical in their estimates are respondents within the 45–59-year old age group. Among them only 10% believe in the efficiency of the authorities, while 58% consider it to be not effective. Less critical are young people (18–34 years old) and the seniors (60+) (see Table 3.4).

Table 3.4

Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)						
	All respondents	Age, years				
		18–24	25–34	35–44	45–59	60+
Yes, in general, they are successful	15	18	17	18	10	14
No, their activities are not efficient	51	49	49	53	58	45
The place where I live has no forest	14	14	14	13	13	17
Don't know	20	19	20	16	19	24

The worst evaluation of the efforts of the authorities is typical in the Far Eastern Federal District (ratio of positive and negative comments is 1 to 10), and in the Northwestern and Siberian Federal Districts (ratio is 1 to 6). The activities of authorities are perceived in a better way in the Southern Federal District, but even here there are more negative responses than positive ones (1 to 2) (see Table 3.5).

Table 3.5

Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)								
	All respondents	Federal districts						
		Central	Northwestern	Southern	Volga	Urals	Siberian	Far Eastern
Yes, in general, they are successful	15	18	12	12	17	18	11	8
No, their activities are not efficient	51	46	72	25	49	59	68	80
The place where I live has no forest	14	17	6	51	4	–	2	1
Don't know	20	19	10	12	30	23	19	11

People in timber production regions are more critical about the efforts of authorities in protecting forests. Two thirds (67%) of respondents here believe the measures taken are inefficient, and only 12% presume that the work of authorities is successful. Thus, the ratio of positive and negative answers is 1 to 6, while in other regions, which are not involved in timber production the gap is less dramatic – 1 to 3 (see Table 3.6).

Table 3.6

Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)			
	All respondents	Timber production regions	Other regions
Yes, in general, they are successful	15	12	16
No, their activities are not efficient	51	67	46
The place where I live has no forest	14	0	19
Don't know	20	21	19

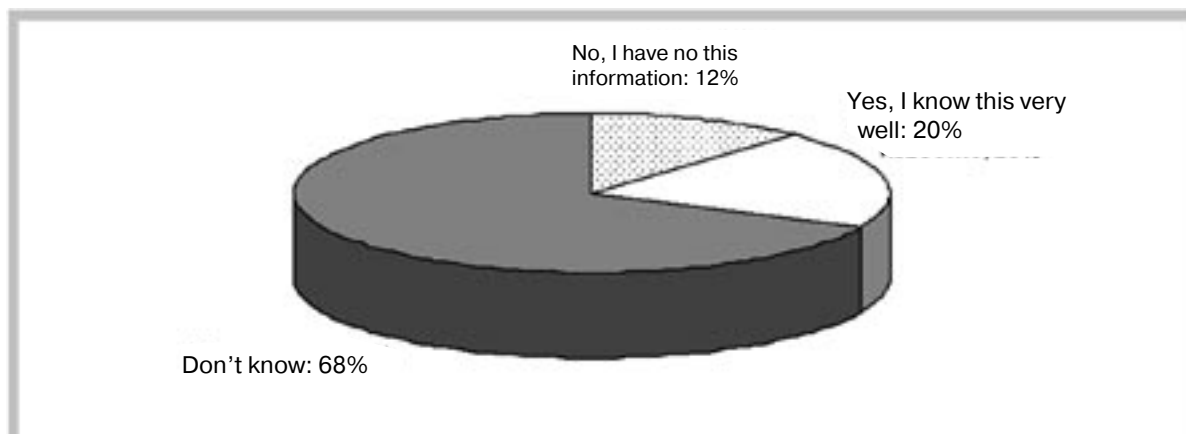
Therefore, the activities of the regional authorities aimed at resolving the problem of violations in the forest sector are perceived in a more negative, than positive public. In timber production regions the efficiency of the authorities is mentioned more frequently than in the rest of the country. The most pessimistic perception of the authorities' activities are in Far Eastern, Siberian and Northwestern Federal Districts, while the perception is better in the Southern Federal District. Critical sentiments are widely spread within the age group of 45–59-year old respondents.

### 3.4. Public Awareness of the Authorities Responsible for Combating Violations in the Forest Sector

Every fifth respondent in Russia notes that he is well aware of the authorities those are in charge of combating violations in the forest sector. They also know how to get in touch with them, their official addresses and phone numbers. Meanwhile, two thirds of the population (68%) have no idea about who is responsible and how to communicate with such authorities. 12% find it difficult to answer (see Chart 3.3).

Chart 3.3

«Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)?»



As far as the authorities dealing with the violations in the forest sector are concerned, males demonstrate higher awareness than females, respondents with higher education or specialized technical education know more than people with secondary or primary education (see Tables 3.7 and 3.8).

Table 3.7

Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)? (%)			
	All respondents	Sex	
		Male	Female
Yes, I know this very well	20	22	18
No, I have no this information	68	64	71
Don't know	12	12	11

Table 3.8

Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)? (%)					
	All respondents	Education			
		Primary or below, unfinished secondary	Secondary (school or vocational training school)	Specialized technical (college)	Unfinished higher (at least 3 years of university), higher
Yes, I know this very well	20	16	16	23	24
No, I have no this information	68	71	70	66	64
Don't know	12	13	14	11	12

The number of respondents, who know well the bodies responsible for combating violations in the forest sector and their contact information, is higher in the Urals, Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts (36, 30 and 28%), while in other districts the amount of informed respondents is 13–17% (see Table 3.9).

Table 3.9

Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)? (%)								
	All respondents	Federal districts						
		Central	Northwestern	Southern	Volga	Urals	Siberian	Far Eastern
Yes, I know this very well	20	16	16	13	17	36	30	28
No, I have no this information	68	73	81	60	73	51	61	65
Don't know	12	11	3	27	10	13	9	7



In timber production regions the level of awareness is higher than in other areas of Russia (25% against 18% , see Table 3.10).

Table 3.10

Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)? (%)			
	All respondents	Timber production regions	Other regions
Yes, I know this very well	20	25	18
No, I have no this information	68	69	68
Don't know	12	6	12

Therefore, the overwhelming majority of Russians know neither state institutions charged with combating poaching, illegal logging, seizure of forest land and other violations, nor their official contact information. The number of informed respondents is higher than average in the Urals, in Siberia and the Far East, but even there it does not exceed 36% .

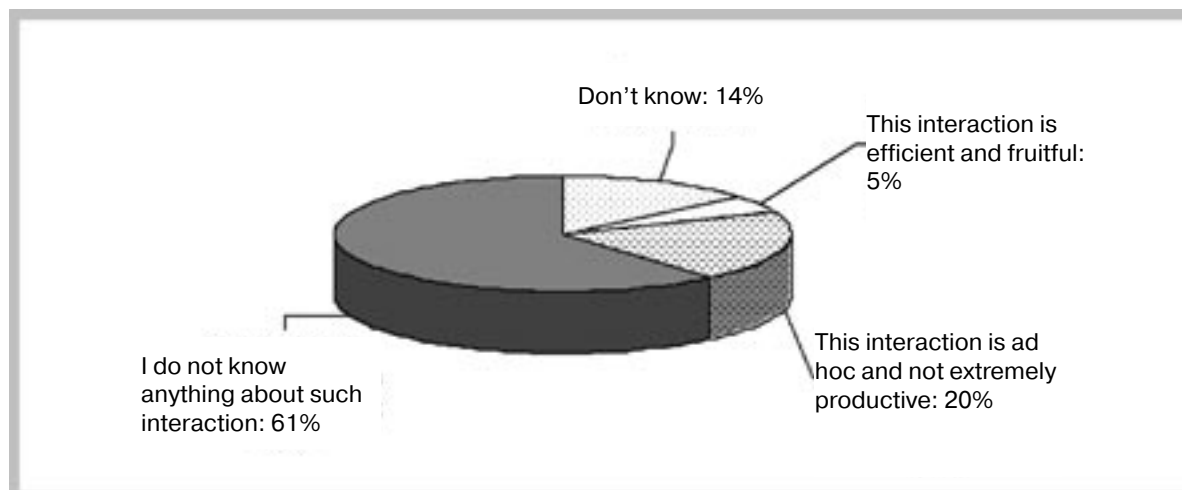
### 3.5. Interaction Between Respective Government Bodies and NGOs in Combating Violations in the Forest Sector

Since the majority of Russians do not know, which government bodies are in charge of combating offenses in forestry sector in their regions, it is very natural that 61% have no idea about any interaction of the authorities with NGOs.

Only 25% of respondents can make any assessment of such cooperation and their evaluation is mostly negative. Merely 5% consider such interaction to be efficient and productive, while 20% look at it as ad hoc and not very productive. 14% have difficulties in assessment of the interactions between state bodies and NGOs, combating violations in the forest sector (see Chart 3.4).

Chart 3.4

«How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations?»



The number of positive assessments of interaction between the state and the third sector is slightly higher in Moscow and St. Petersburg (10%) in comparison with other settlements (3–6%) (see Table 3.11).

Table 3.11

How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations? (%)						
	All respondents	Type of settlement				
		Moscow and St. Petersburg	Over 500,000 inhabitants	100–500,000	<100,000	Rural
This interaction is efficient and fruitful	5	10	5	3	3	6
This interaction is ad hoc and not extremely productive	20	23	21	26	25	14
I do not know anything about such interaction	61	64	60	55	62	62
	14	3	14	16	10	18

The number of those, who are not informed about such cooperation in the forest sector, is over 50% in five out of seven federal districts. The worst indicators are in Siberia and the Volga Federal District (71% and 67% correspondingly). The highest awareness is typical for the Far East and the Urals (45% and 42%).

In all districts the share of negative assessments of interaction is substantially higher than the percentage of positive responses. The largest gap is in the Far East – 1 to 9, since 46% there believe that the cooperation between the authorities and NGOs in the region, as far as the forest sector is concerned, is sporadic and inefficient (see Table 3.12).

Table 3.12

How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations? (%)								
	All respondents	Federal districts						
		Central	Northwestern	Southern	Volga	Urals	Siberian	Far Eastern
This interaction is efficient and fruitful	5	5	8	3	5	8	2	5
This interaction is ad hoc and not extremely productive	20	25	27	12	13	33	12	46
I do not know anything about such interaction	61	63	60	55	67	42	71	45
Don't know	14	7	5	30	15	17	15	4

The assessments of the timber production regions do not differ from the rest of Russia in this case (see Table 3.13).

Table 3.13

How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations? (%)			
	All respon- dents	Timber production regions	Other regions
This interaction is efficient and fruitful	5	5	5
This interaction is ad hoc and not extremely productive	20	23	20
I do not know anything about such interaction	61	63	60
Don't know	14	9	14

Therefore, the majority of Russians do not know anything about cooperation of regional authorities, responsible for combating violations in the forest sector and NGOs. As for those, who are aware, they are quite pessimistic – the interaction is characterized as irregular and with low productivity.

### 3.6. Readiness of the Russians to Participate in Protecting the Forests

Half of the respondents is ready to help the authorities in combating violations in the forest sector. Only 2% mention that they do not care about the problem of conservation of forests. 29%, however, are not willing to participate in any forms of such activities and 17% find it difficult to decide about their readiness or its specific forms.

One third of the Russians (34%) could participate in planting trees, garbage removal, etc. 13% of respondents assume that they would participate in protests – rallies, manifestations, pickets – against poaching, illegal logging, seizure of forest land, etc. Nearly the same number – 12% – intends to collect signatures under petitions to the authorities. Every tenth interviewee (9%) would join forest inspections to identify illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc. Educational work is attractive for 7% of respondents. The least popular is charity – only 4% of Russians agree to donate their money for environmental activities (see Chart 3.5).

Obviously, the declared readiness to contribute towards forest conservation does not necessarily mean that all these people will participate in real-time activities. Nonetheless, the government bodies and NGOs, working on the forest-related issues, can benefit from this hidden potential. To make this work more efficient, we have decided to see the difference in approaches of various social-demographic groups towards specific types of environmental activities.

The survey showed that in all groups the respondents are, above all, prepared for taking part in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.

Females are more active than males in this respect (37% and 31% correspondingly) (see Table 3.14).

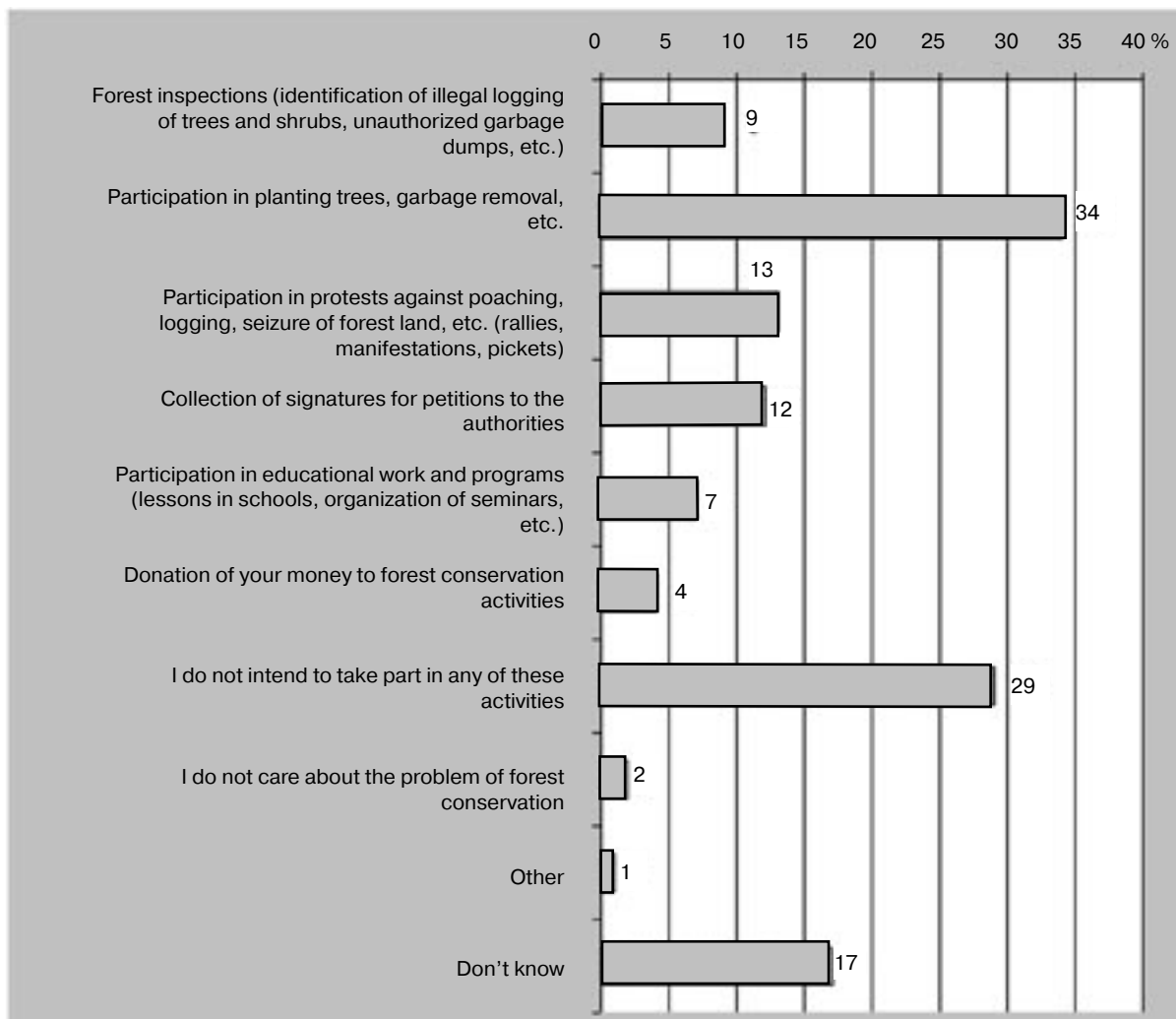
Table 3.14

Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part? (%)			
	All respon- dents	Sex	
		Male	Female
Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)	9	11	8
Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.	34	31	37
Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest land, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)	13	13	13

Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities	12	11	13
Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)	7	6	8
Donation of your money to forest conservation activities	4	4	3
I do not intend to take part in any of these activities	29	31	27
I do not care about the problem of forest conservation	2	2	2
Other	1	2	1
Don't know	17	15	19

Chart 3.5

« Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part?»  
(any number of answers)



Among the age groups the most active environmentalists are 35–59-year old respondents. They have the lowest number of those who do not care or do not intend to participate in any form of forest conservation (25–26%). As a matter of comparison, people younger than 35 and 60+ are less willing to take any efforts (31% and 42% of refusals).

Even though 60+ respondents are less active (for natural reasons), about one fifth (21%) in the group is eager to plant the trees and remove garbage; 11% would like to take part in protest activities and 9% are ready to collect signatures for the petitions (see Table 3.15).

Table 3.15

Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part? (%)						
	All respondents	Age, years				
		18–24	25–34	35–44	45–59	60+
Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)	9	10	11	11	10	4
Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.	34	37	34	41	38	21
Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest land, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)	13	14	13	13	15	11
Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities	12	16	10	14	12	9
Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)	7	12	9	7	6	5
Donation of your money to forest conservation activities	4	7	2	5	4	2
I do not intend to take part in any of these activities	29	27	31	23	24	40
I do not care about the problem of forest conservation	2	4	0	2	2	2
Other	1	1	1	0	2	2
Don't know	17	12	19	15	16	21

The higher is the level of education of respondents, the more frequently they are ready to assist the authorities in combating illegal activities in the forest sector. The number of those, who do not care or have no desire to contribute to forest conservation, is decreasing from 42% among the people with under-secondary education to 25% among those with university or unfinished higher education.

The respondents from this educated group, as a rule, are more willing to take any action, but for the protests. The latter attract people with secondary education (school and college graduates). 17% of them are eager to take part in protests, while in other groups this share does not exceed 9–12% (see Table 3.16).

Table 3.16

Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part?					
	All respondents	Education			
		Primary or below, unfinished secondary	Secondary (school or vocational training school)	Specialized secondary (college)	Unfinished higher (at least 3 years of university), higher
Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)	9	6	9	9	12
Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.	34	17	35	36	39
Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest land, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)	13	9	17	12	10
Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities	12	7	13	11	15
Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)	7	4	6	7	12
Donation of your money to forest conservation activities	4	2	4	4	4
I do not intend to take part in any of these activities	29	39	28	29	23
I do not care about the problem of forest conservation	2	3	1	2	2
Other	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	17	24	17	15	15

In timber production and other regions the answers of respondents nearly coincide (Table 3.17).

Table 3.17

Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part?			
	All respon- dents	Timber production regions	Other regions
Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)	9	11	8
Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.	34	36	33
Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest land, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)	13	14	13
Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities	12	15	11
Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)	7	6	8
Donation of your money to forest conservation activities	4	3	4
I do not intend to take part in any of these activities	29	29	29
I do not care about the problem of forest conservation	2	1	2
Other	1	1	1
Don't know	17	18	17

Therefore, half of the respondents point out that they could participate in some types of forest conservation activities. The most popular form is the planting of trees, garbage removal, etc. More active in this respect are the respondents of 35–59 years old, who indicate more willingness (along with the people with higher and unfinished higher education) to contribute to the protection of forests.

### 3.7. Conclusions

The survey demonstrates that the violations in the forest sector cause grave concerns of the majority of Russians (59%). Public opinion perceives the situation to be the most intense in the timber production regions (77% of their citizens speak about serious problems). The issue of utmost importance is the state of affairs in the Northwestern Federal District (where 81% of respondents are concerned about the violation of laws regulating the forest sector). The situation is slightly better in the Volga district, where 28% are optimistic about the forestry problems.

The activities of the regional authorities in this area are mostly regarded as inefficient (51% of Russians are not satisfied and 15% are content). In timber production regions people are even more critical than in Russia in average (+12%, -67% vs. +16% and -46% in Russia). Most negative assessments relate to the work of the authorities in the Far Eastern (+8%, -80%), Siberian (+11%, -68%) and Northwestern (+12%, -72%) Federal Districts. The most positive district is Southern (+12%, -25%). The highest gap between positive and negative evaluations is typical of the 45–59-year old Russians (+10%, -58%).

The overwhelming majority of Russians are not aware of the state institutions responsible for combating poaching, illegal logging, seizure of lands, etc. and have no idea about their contact information. The number of informed respondents is slightly higher than average (20%) in the Urals, Siberia and Far East, but even there it does not amount to more than 36%.

Most of the Russians (61%) do not know anything about cooperation of their regional authorities with the NGOs in the sphere of forest conservation. Those who are informed prefer to give negative answers (+5%, -20%) and regard the interaction as ad hoc and inefficient.

Half of the respondents hypothetically could participate in some activities related to forest conservation. The most popular form of such environmental work is the planting of trees, cleaning of garbage, etc. 34% of respondents emphasize that they could do this kind of job. Most ready are 35–59-year old respondents and those with higher or unfinished university education. Protest activities are more popular with the respondents with secondary education.

**Therefore, the majority of Russians point out serious violations in the forest sector. The activities of the regional authorities in combating such violations are considered to be inefficient and most Russians do not even know who bears responsibility for such work, nor are they aware of the contact information of respective government bodies. The majority has no idea about cooperation between the state bodies and NGOs in forest conservation, and those informed give negative assessments. At the same time, every second Russian could take part in the forest conservation efforts, e.g. one third of respondents are ready to plant the trees and remove garbage**



**Annex. Opinion of the Timber Production Regions and the Rest of Russia**

	All respon- dents	Timber production regions	Other regions
<b>Do you think that in your region there are serious problems related to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)</b>			
Yes, there are serious problems	59	77	53
No, I see no problems here	16	10	18
The place where I live has no forest	15	1	20
Don't know	10	13	9
<b>Do you know which authorities are in charge of combating violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.) and how they can be got in touch with (official address, telephone number)? (%)</b>			
Yes, I know this very well	20	25	18
No, I have no this information	68	69	68
Don't know	12	6	14
<b>Do you think that the authorities of your region are successfully resolving the problems connected to violations of the law in the forest sector (illegal logging, poaching, seizure of forest land, etc.)? (%)</b>			
Yes, in general, they are successful	15	12	16
No, their activities are not efficient	51	67	46
The place where I live has no forest	14	0	19
Don't know	20	21	19
<b>How would you assess the interaction of state bodies of your region responsible for combating violations in the forest sector with the non-governmental organizations? (%)</b>			
This interaction is efficient and fruitful	5	5	5
This interaction is ad hoc and not extremely productive	20	23	20
I do not know anything about such interaction	61	63	60
Don't know	14	9	14
<b>Are you ready to provide assistance to the authorities in combating violations of law in the forest sector? If yes, in which types of forest conservation activities could you take part? (any number of answers) (%)</b>			
Forest inspections (identification of illegal logging of trees and shrubs, unauthorized garbage dumps, etc.)	9	11	8
Participation in planting trees, garbage removal, etc.	34	36	33
Participation in protests against poaching, logging, seizure of forest land, etc. (rallies, manifestations, pickets)	13	14	13
Collection of signatures for petitions to the authorities	12	15	11
Participation in educational work and programs (lessons in schools, organization of seminars, etc.)	7	6	8
Donation of your money to forest conservation activities	4	3	4
I do not intend to take part in any of these activities	29	29	29
I do not care about the problem of forest conservation	2	1	2
Other	1	1	1
Don't know	17	18	17

## Chapter 4

### PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON THE FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT IN KHABAROVSK KRAI

Public opinion poll on the forest law enforcement in Khabarovsky Krai was conducted by regional public nature conservation organization “EcoDal” in Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk-na-Amyre Cites as well as in some municipal districts in August-September 2005. The poll was based on the wordings of questions developed for the Internet poll held at [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru) (see Chapter 1). Responses were received from 192 people.

Despite obvious deficiencies with the size of the sample the results of this poll are very interesting. Khabarovsky krai was not included in the list of regions covered by the VCIOM poll (see Chapter 2). However this region is the place of large-scale logging and the source of round timber export to China. The authorities of Khabarovsky krai and the far East federal district recognize the urgency of the issue of law enforcement in the forest sector, particularly that of illegal cuttings and timber exports. The results of this poll are presented in Table 4.1.

For Khabarovsky krai in general the share of respondents who think that the region faces serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector (illegal cuttings, poaching, forest lands take-over, etc.) amounts to 79 %. Only 3 % of respondents are of opinion that there are no serious problems with law enforcement in the region.

According to data collected within the framework of the VCIOM poll for the Far East federal district in general 72 % of respondents view law enforcement problems as serious while 18 % hold an opposite view. In is interesting to note that residents of Khabarovsky municipal district consider the issue of law enforcement in the forest sector less acute than residents of other regions of this krai (54.5 % of respondents believe that this problem does exist). In all other regions of Khabarovsky krai at least 75 % of respondents think that there are serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector in the region.

Only 12 % of respondents in Khabarovsky krai believe that the authorities efficiently address the problem of law enforcement in the forest sector (illegal cuttings, poaching, forest lands take-over, etc.) while 64 % of respondents think that the authorities act inefficiently in this respect. 23.5 % of respondents have difficulties with answering this question.

According to data collected within the framework of the VCIOM poll in the Far East federal district only 8 % of respondents positively viewed action taken by the authorities to address the problem of law enforcement in the forest sector and 80 % believed that the authorities acted inefficiently. Comparison of this data demonstrates that the population of Khabarovsky krai is less critical of the action taken by the authorities to address the problem of law enforcement in the forest sector.

Responding to the question “Are you ready to assist the authorities in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector?” 52.1 % of respondents in Khabarovsky krai gave a positive answer. 28.6 % of respondents reported that they were not inclined to do so. The rest 19.3 % have not yet determined their stand on this issue.

These results are in line with mean percentages of the VCIOM poll for Russia in general. According to their results 51 % are ready to assist the authorities, 29 % are not inclined to do so, while 17 % had difficulties with this question.

Responding to the question “Do you know how to contact (official address, phone number or E-mail address) the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector?” 38 % of respondents gave a positive answer. 62 % either did not know how to do it or had difficulties with that question.

Comparison of this data with the results of the VCIOM poll demonstrates that the level of awareness of Khabarovsky krai population of the bodies responsible for law enforcement in the forest

sector is considerably higher than that both for Russia in general (20 % are aware, while 80 % are unaware how to contact the authorities) and for the Far East federal district in particular (28 % are aware, while 72 % are unaware how to do it). This figure is close to the results found in Ural-sky federal district which is the most successful one in this respect where 36 % of respondents knew how to find relevant authorities and 64 % did not know or had difficulties with answering.

Responding to the question “Are the authorities ready to cooperate with public in addressing law enforcement issues in the forest sector?” 28.1 % of respondents gave a positive answer, while 40.6 % believed that the authorities were not prepared to cooperate and 31.3 % had difficulties with that question.

It is quite interesting to compare responses to the last two questions received in the neighbouring Vaninsky (47 % of respondents) and Sovetsko-Gavansky (49 % of respondents) municipal districts. In Vaninsky district only 17 % of respondents are aware of hoe to contact the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector. 82 % are unaware of that or have difficulties with the question. In addition, only 13 % of respondents in Vaninsky district think that the authorities are ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector. 87 % of respondents are of the opposite view or have difficulties with answering this question.

In Sovetsko-Gavansky district the situation is totally different. Here 69 % of respondents know how to contact the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector, and 61 % believe that the authorities are ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing the issues in this field.

The percentage of those who responded positively to the question on whether the authorities were ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing the issues of law enforcement the forest sector in Khabarovsky krai are somewhat more optimistic than the figures obtained in the course of the Internet poll at [www.forest.ru](http://www.forest.ru). Out of 150 people who responded to this question during that poll only 14.7 % believed that the authorities were ready to cooperate with public organizations in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector, while 66.7 % held the opposite view and 18.7 % of respondents had difficulties with answering that question.

The questions used in the VCIOM poll had a slightly different wording. In the Far East federal district interaction between the official bodies responsible for combating crime in the forest sector and public organizations was considered efficient by 5 % of respondents. On the other hand, 46 % of respondents think that it occurs only on a case-by-case basis and is low-productive while 45 % of respondents know nothing of such interaction.

Table 3.1.

		Khбаровsk City	Khбаровský Municipal District	Komsomolsk-na-Amure, District	Vaninsky Municipal District	Sovetsko-Gavansky Municipal District	Lazo, Nikolaevsky and Uitchsky Municipal Districts	Total:
	No. of respondents	32	22	29	47	49	13	192
1. Do you think that there are any serious problems with law enforcement in the forest sector in your region (illegal cuttings, poaching, forest lands take-over, etc.)?	Yes	27 (84%)	12 (54,5%)	24 (82,8%)	40 (85,1%)	38 (77,5%)	11 (84,6%)	152 (79,2%)
	No	0 (0%)	1 (4,5%)	0 (0%)	3 (6,4%)	2 (4,1%)	0 (0%)	6 (3,1%)
	Don't know	5 (15,6%)	9 (41%)	5 (17,2%)	4 (8,5%)	9 (18,4%)	2 (15,4%)	34 (17,7%)
2. Do you think that in your region the authorities efficiently address problems related to law enforcement in the forest sector?	Yes	2 (6,25%)	6 (27,3%)	1 (3,4%)	5 (10,6%)	7 (14,3%)	3 (23,1%)	24 (12,5%)
	No	21 (65,6%)	10 (45,5%)	21 (72,4%)	35 (74,5%)	27 (55,15%)	9 (69,2%)	123 (64%)
	Don't know	9 (28,1%)	6 (27,3%)	7 (24,1%)	7 (14,9%)	15 (30,6%)	1 (7,7%)	45 (23,5%)

	<b>Khabarovsk City</b>	<b>Khabarovsk Municipal District</b>	<b>Komsomolsk-na-Amure, District</b>	<b>Vaninsky Municipal District</b>	<b>Sovetsko-Gavansky Municipal District</b>	<b>Lazo, Nikolaevsky and Uitchsky Municipal Districts</b>	<b>Total:</b>
3. Are you ready to assist the authorities in addressing the issues of law enforcement in the forest sector?	Yes	13 (40,6%)	8 (36,4%)	17 (58,6%)	29 (61,7%)	25 (51,0%)	100 (52,1%)
	No	14 (43,8%)	11 (5%)	4 (13,8%)	13 (27,6%)	12 (24,5%)	55 (28,6%)
	Don't know	5 (15,6%)	3 (13,6%)	8 (27,6%)	5 (10,6%)	12 (24,5%)	37 (19,3%)
4. Do you know how to contact (official address, phone number or E-mail address) the authorities responsible for law enforcement in the forest sector?	Yes	8 (25%)	8 (36,4%)	10 (34,5%)	8 (17%)	34 (69,4%)	73 (38%)
	No	17 (53,1%)	7 (31,8%)	15 (51,7%)	32 (7%)	13 (26,5%)	89 (46,4%)
	Don't know	7 (21,9%)	7 (31,8%)	4 (13,8%)	7 (15%)	2 (4,5%)	30 (15,6%)
5. Do you think that the authorities are ready to cooperate with public in addressing law enforcement issues in the forest sector?	Yes	11 (34,8%)	2 (9,1%)	3 (10,4%)	6 (12,8%)	30 (61,2%)	54 (28,1%)
	No	8 (3%)	7 (31,8%)	14 (48,3%)	31 (65,9%)	14 (28,6%)	78 (40,6%)
	Don't know	13 (40,6%)	13 (59,1%)	12 (41,4%)	10 (21,3%)	5 (10,2%)	60 (31,3%)

IUCN – The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948 and bring together 82 states (including Russia, which represented by the Ministry of Natural Resources), 111 governmental agencies, more than 800 NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in unique worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure the any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. Within the framework of global conventions IUCN has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. Since 1999 IUCN Office for Russia and CIS is working in Moscow.

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International Socio-Ecological Union (ISEU) is one of the largest non-governmental non-for-profit organizations uniting almost 350 independent organizations and several hundreds individuals from 19 countries.

ISEU is the umbrella-type organization for individuals and NGOs with diverse social and political orientation. Being as a whole a non-political organization ISEU is open for collaboration with all political forces, except those who discredited themselves by nationalistic slogans and crimes against Nature and Humanity.

Among the main ISEU directions of work are ecological safety, rocket and space activity, children ecology and health, environmental impact assessment of various projects, chemical pollution and chemical safety, ecoeducation, ecovilages, nuclear and radioactive safety, biosafety. The ISEU Forest Campaign works with forest and forestry problems.

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Non-governemental organisation «Ecodal» is working in the sphere of raising awareness on the environmental issues, environmental education, support for people’s environmental interest and rights. «Ecodal» is working on the territory of Khabarovsk Krai and Primorski Krai, and has three major directions in its activities. Russian Far East Center for Environmental Rights is consulting on legal issues of environment protection, support people and organizations in courts, with a special focus on Native people environmental rights, participates in the development of legal basis for public participation, use of natural rtesources, environment protection; it organizes the public environmental expertise. Environmental Law Clinic provides opportunities for university students to have their internship and practical and research work. The main objective of the Clinic is to support, education throught action. The Bureau of Public Discussions helps authorities and state agencies to organize public discussions on their plans in natural resource use.

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