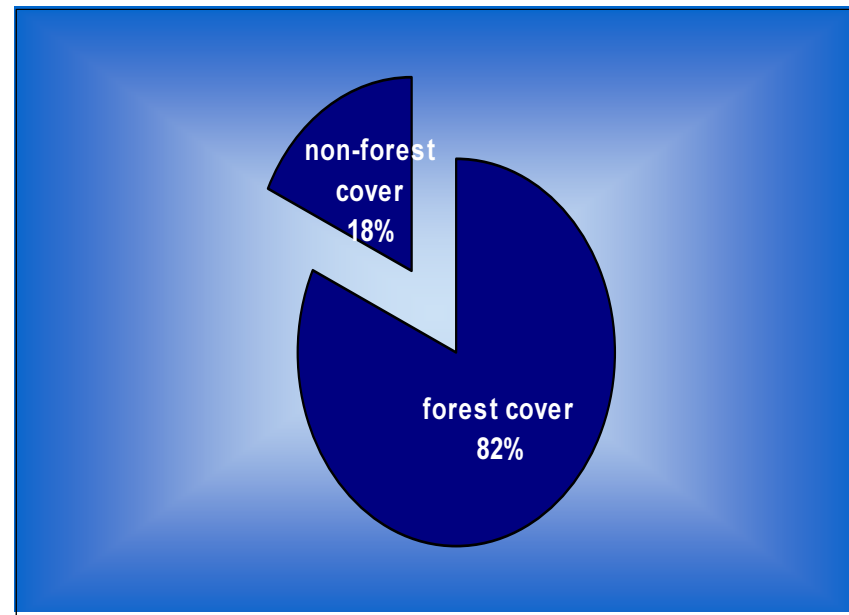
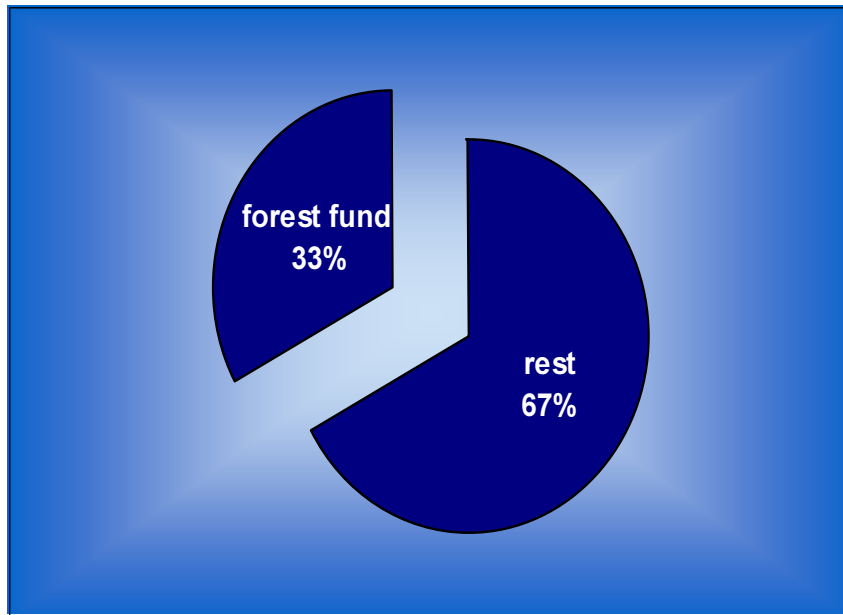


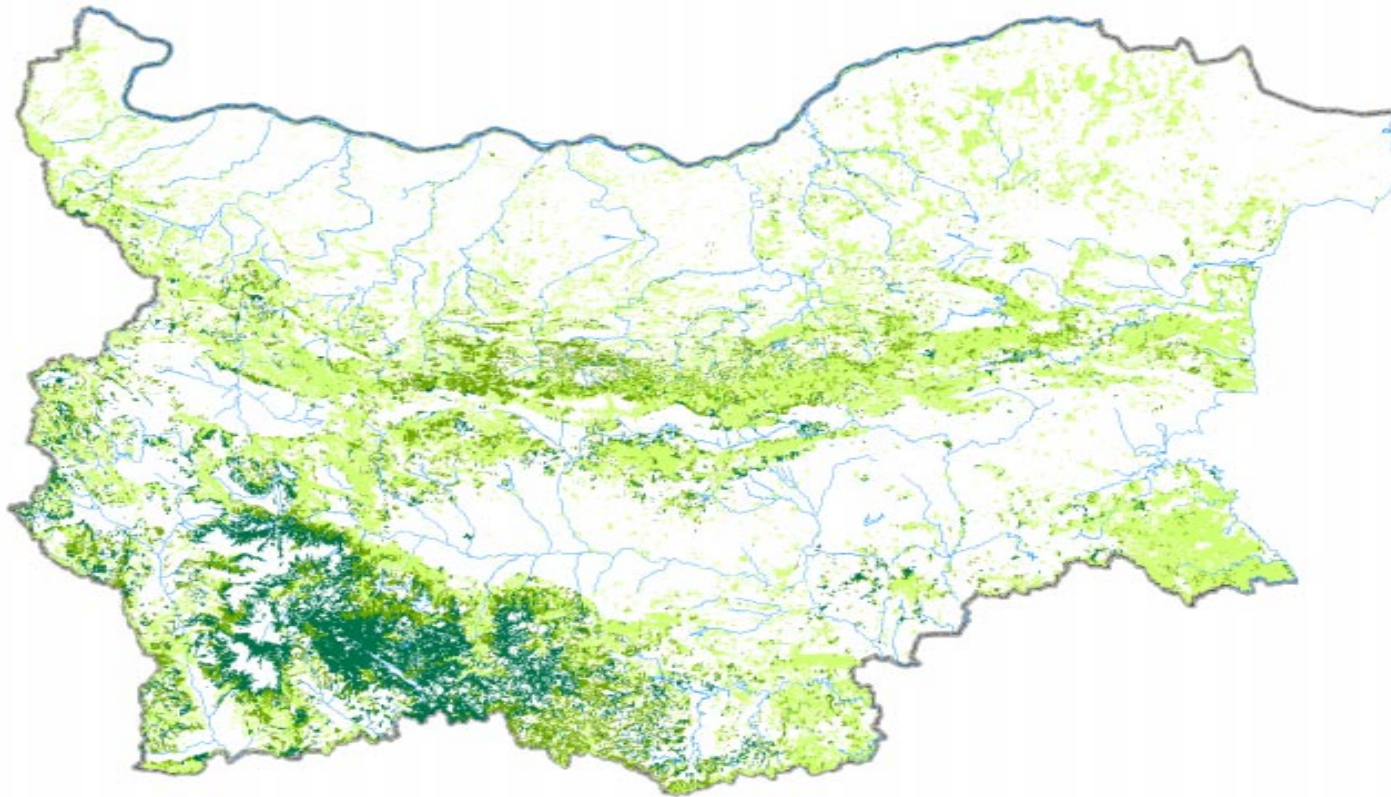
Forest legislation and biodiversity

in Bulgaria

The total land area of Bulgaria is 110,550 square km with some 27% covered by forests and 33% belonging to the “Forest Fund”



Bulgarian forests cover 3.91 million ha or circa 34% of the national territory



Forest legislation during the last century

- First Forest Act 1883
- Second Forest Act 1925
- Nationalization of the Bulgarian forests 1947
- After the nationalization – operating during communistic time 1958 /1968,1972, 1979/
- After the restitution - 1997 market-oriented changes
- 2003 - New changes are planned with Forest Development Project

Prior to 1947

- 55% of the forest area earmarked for local authorities /municipalities/
- the private forests accounted to 16.4% of the forests
- forest cooperatives - 0.7%.
- school forests – 0.7%
- religious establishments possessed 1%
- state enjoyed only 26,5% of the forests.

Today

- Ownership is 86% state
- 8% private individuals
- 5% municipalities
- Less than 1% split between religious, schools, cooperatives etc.

According to Protected Areas Act

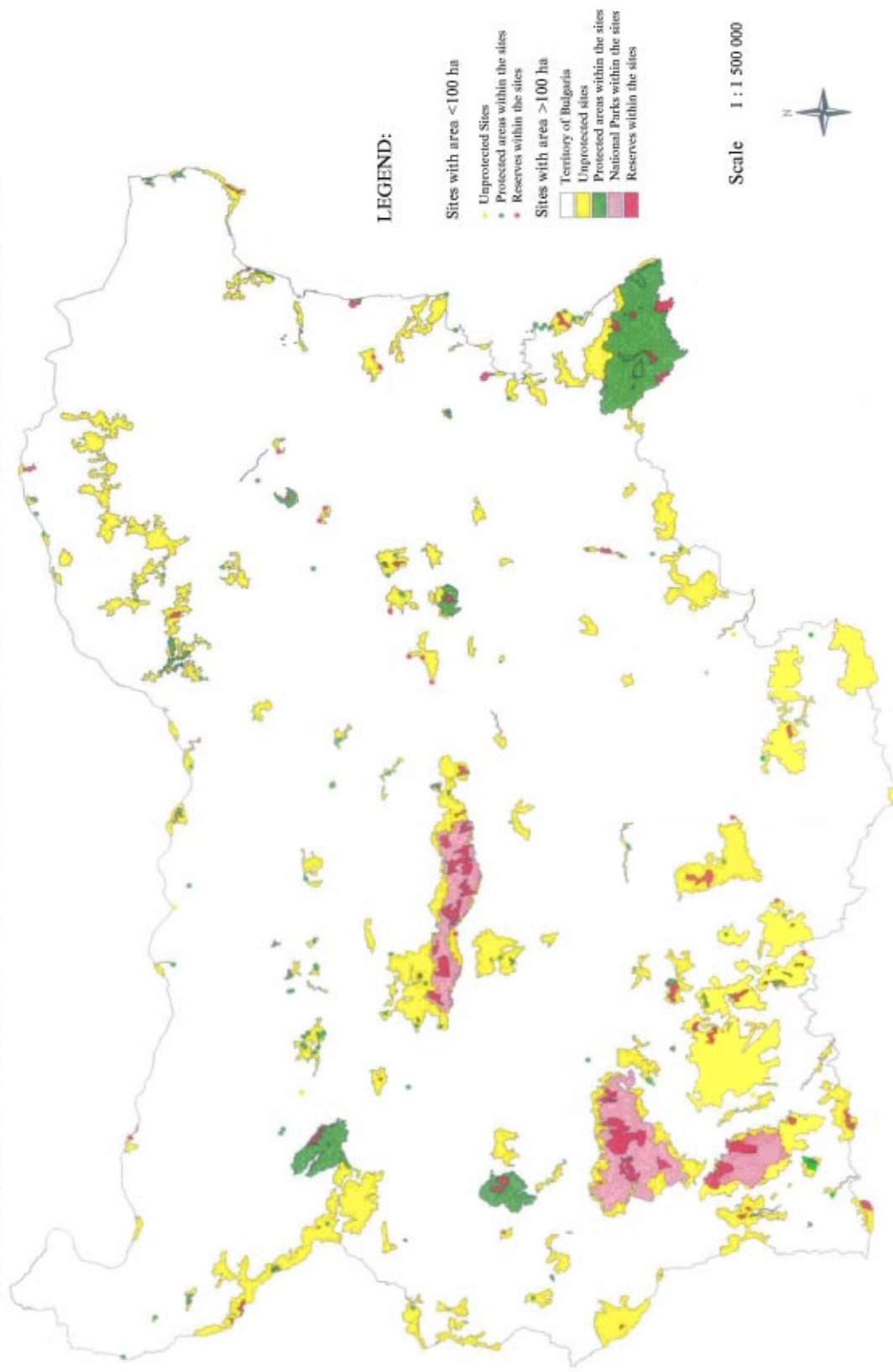
Bulgarian protected categories	Number	Area, ha	Percent of total country area
Reserve I, II	55	76 783.8	0.69
National Park- II, V		3193 047.9	1.74
Natural Monument – III, V	426	23 153.3	0.21
Maintained reserve – IV	35	1 417.1	0.04
Nature park – V, VI	11	260 073.1	2.34
Protected site – V, III	103	21 700.0	0.2
Total	632	578 875.2	5.22

IUCN categories: Strict Nature Reserve – I, National Park – II, Natural monument- III, Habitat management area – IV, Protected landscape – V, Managed resource protected area - VI

Areas potentially included in NATURA 2000

- About 10% of the forests are included in different types of protected areas
- About 27% of Bulgarian forests are included in CORINE Biotopes
- 6,5% of Bulgarian forests are within IBA
- 30 - 40% of Bulgarian forest cover will be included in Natura 2000

SITES DETERMINED BY THE CORINE BIOTOPES BULGARIA PROJECT



Biodiversity Conservation Act

In its annexes defines 40 forest habitats and numerous species.

The habitats must be included in special protected zones. But the implementation of the conservation of habitats is still unclear.

The usual forestry schemes

- Thinning/durchforstung
- Tending/Pflege
- Shelter wood cutting/schrittweises vorgehen/schirmschlag
- Irregular shelter wood /femel schlag
- Clearcutting/kahlschlag - but less than 5 ha
- Selection forest /plenterwald

Through some of these cuttings could be chase

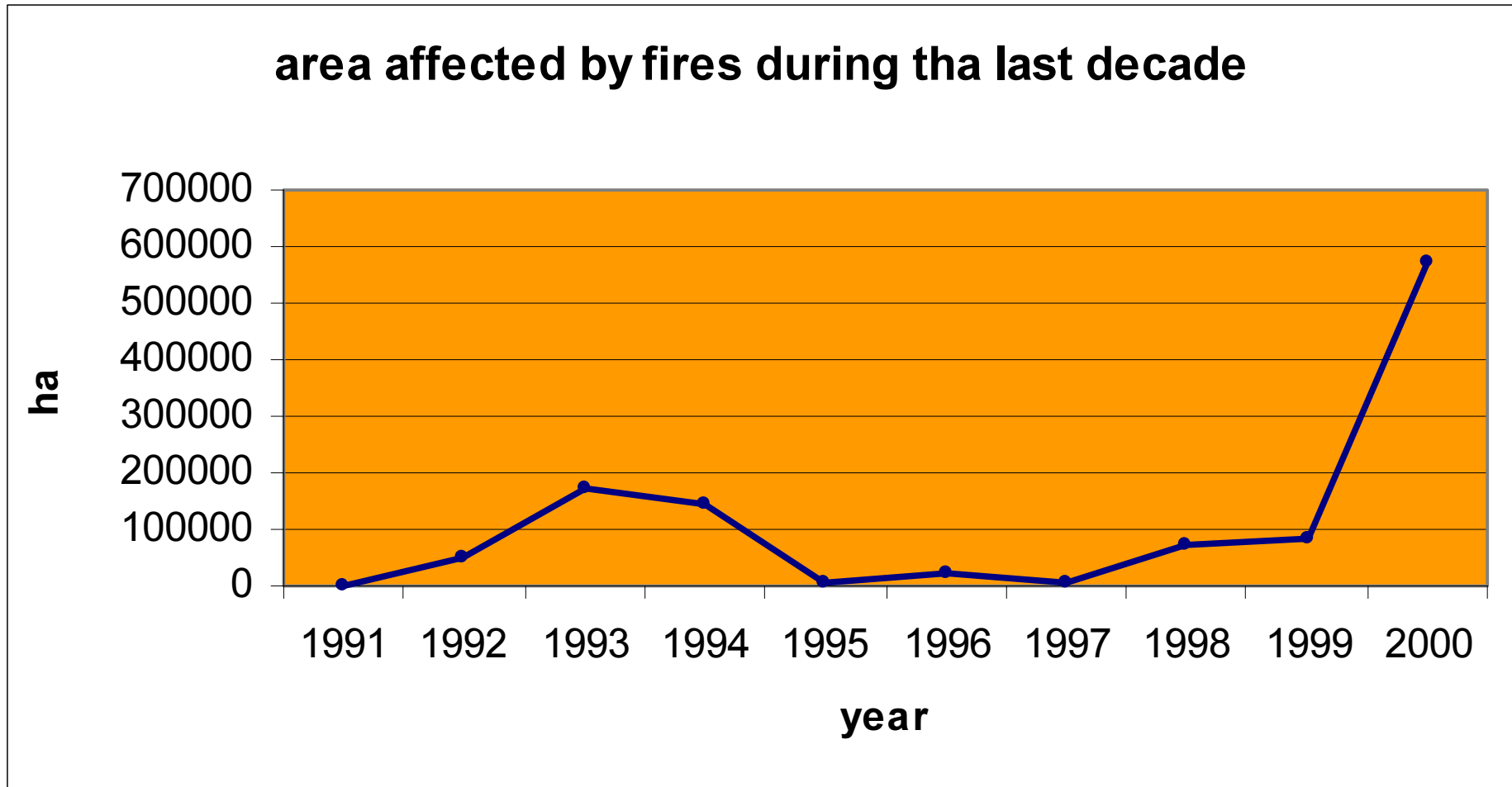
- Conversion from coppice wood to high-stem wood
- Transformation from introduced to natural tree species

Some restrictions

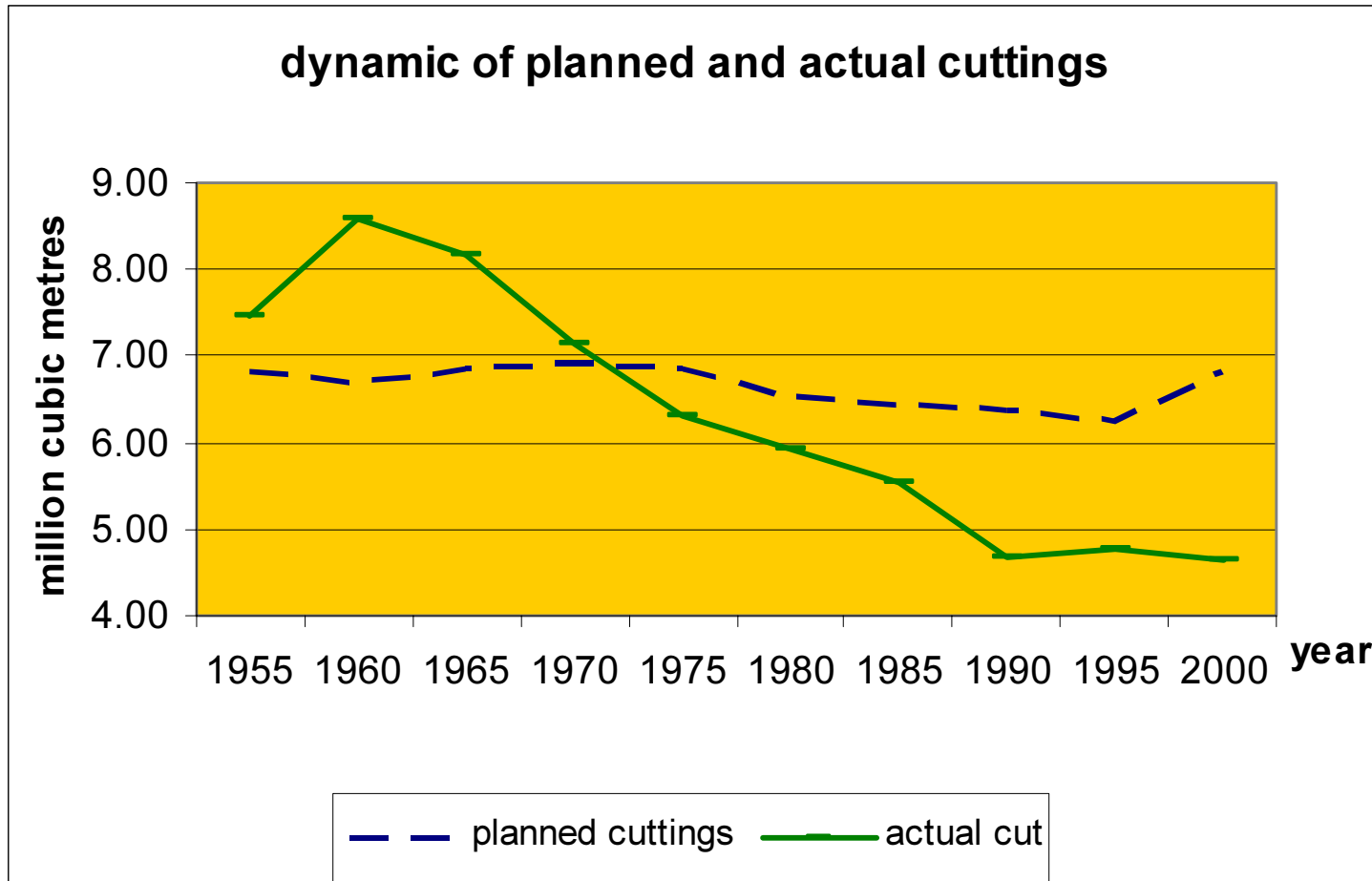
- Prohibited is the felling in dwarf mountain pine and Balkan Pine (*Pinus leucodermis* Christ.), with the exception of sanitary felling
- Clear-cuts in the high-stem forests on area over 5 ha, with exception of poplar, and intensive plantations

As long as biodiversity is treated as something separate it will never be integrated into normal forest planning and management

**133,000 ha, or about 3.5 % of the forest area burnt
between 1991 and 2001**



Illegal harvesting is estimated from 30% to 200% from legal removals



How does the legislation work?

