




**NATO-Russia  
Partnership**

**Forest Fire Disasters:  
Early Warning, Monitoring, and  
Management**

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**Potential Collaborative Research Activities  
between the Russian Federation and NATO  
Member States to reduce Environmental,  
Social, and Economic Disasters  
Caused by Destruction of Forests  
and Release of Carbon by Fire**



**A presentation on behalf of the  
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)**

**\*  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
(ISDR)**

**\*  
ECE / FAO / ILO  
*Team of Specialists on Forest Fire***

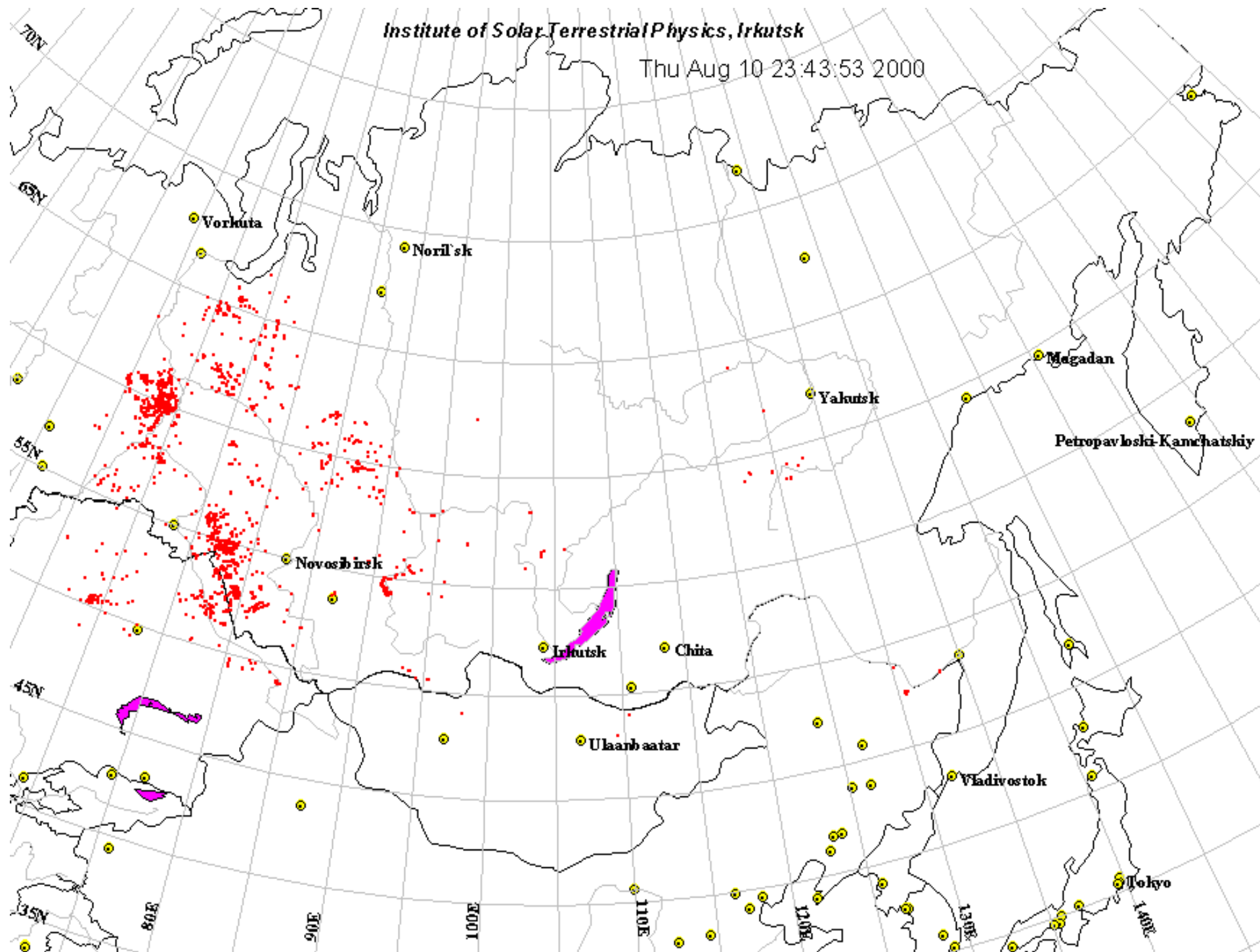
# **Forest Fires in Central-Northern Europe / Baltic Region:**

**Causes, severity and consequences of forest fires are closely linked to modern human activities, e.g.**

- \* socio-economics (change of forest use)**
- \* industrialization (forest decline)**
- \* radioactive contamination**
- \* military installations and activities**
- \* problems arising at the forest / residential interfaces**
- \* tourism**

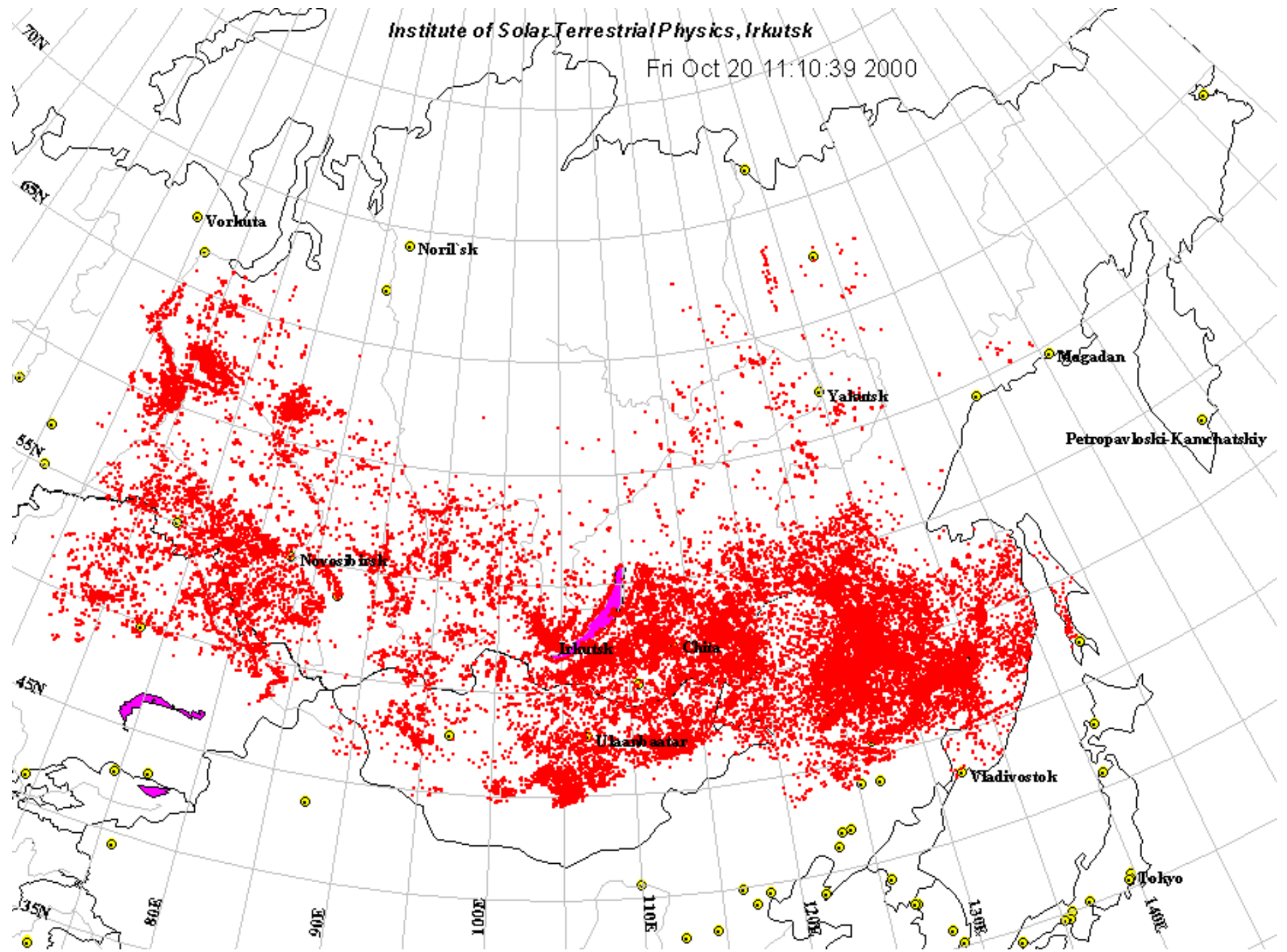
## **Situation in the Russian Federation where >1 billion ha of forest land represent**

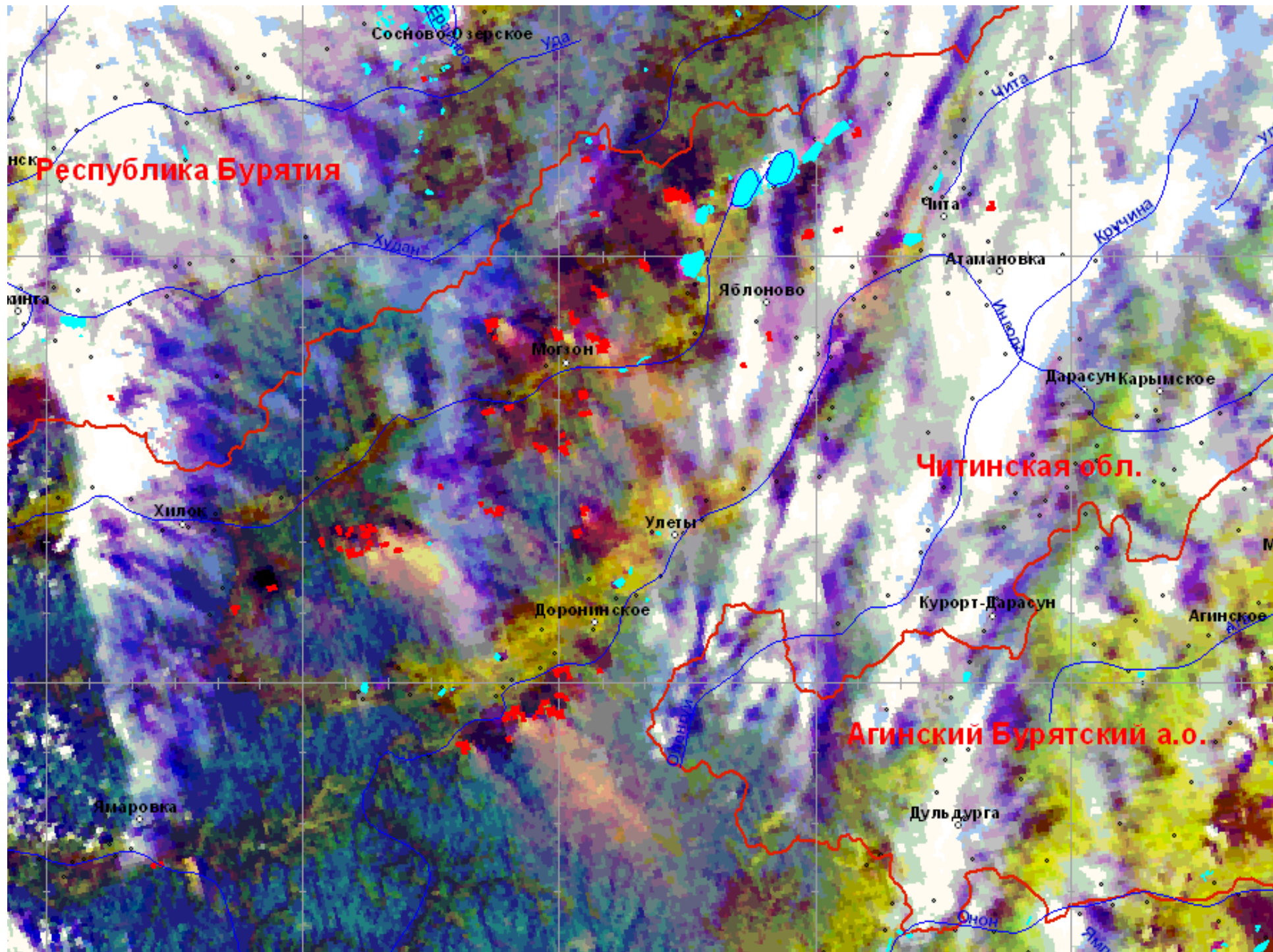
- \* the largest single forest resource on Earth
- \* the highest risk to be affected by climate change
- \* the most challenging opportunities to solve current and future problems by new approaches in fire management



Institute of Solar Terrestrial Physics, Irkutsk

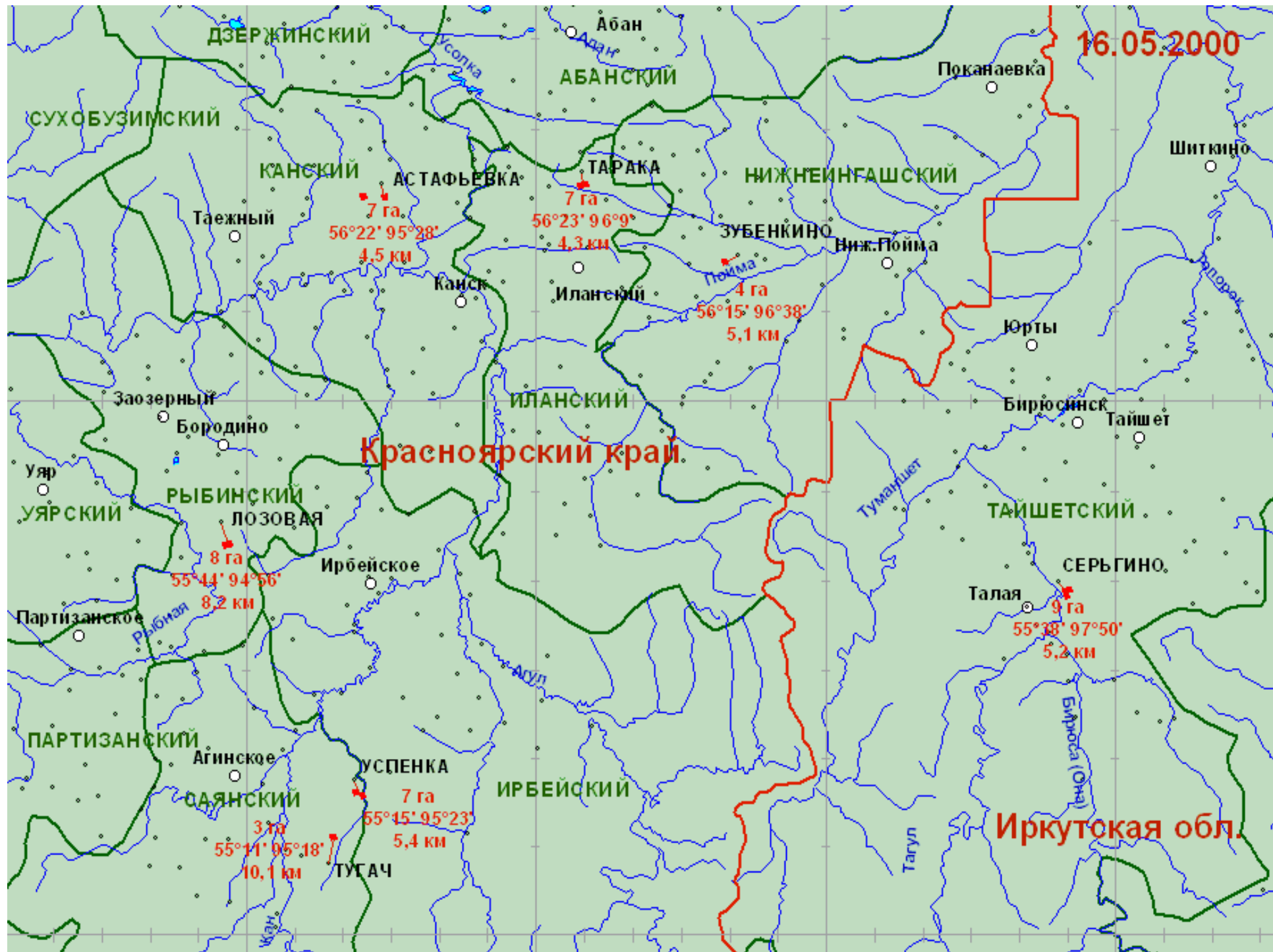
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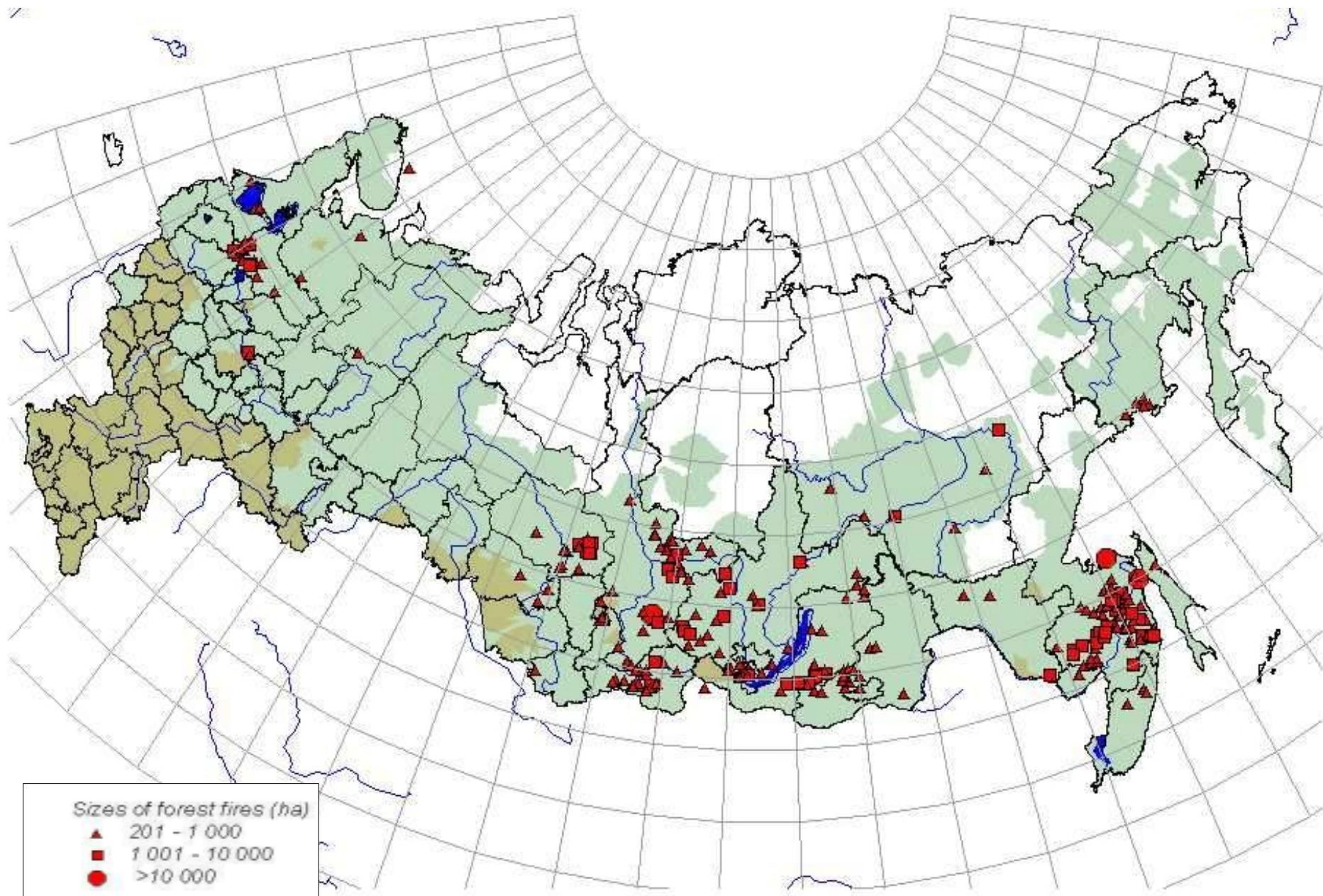




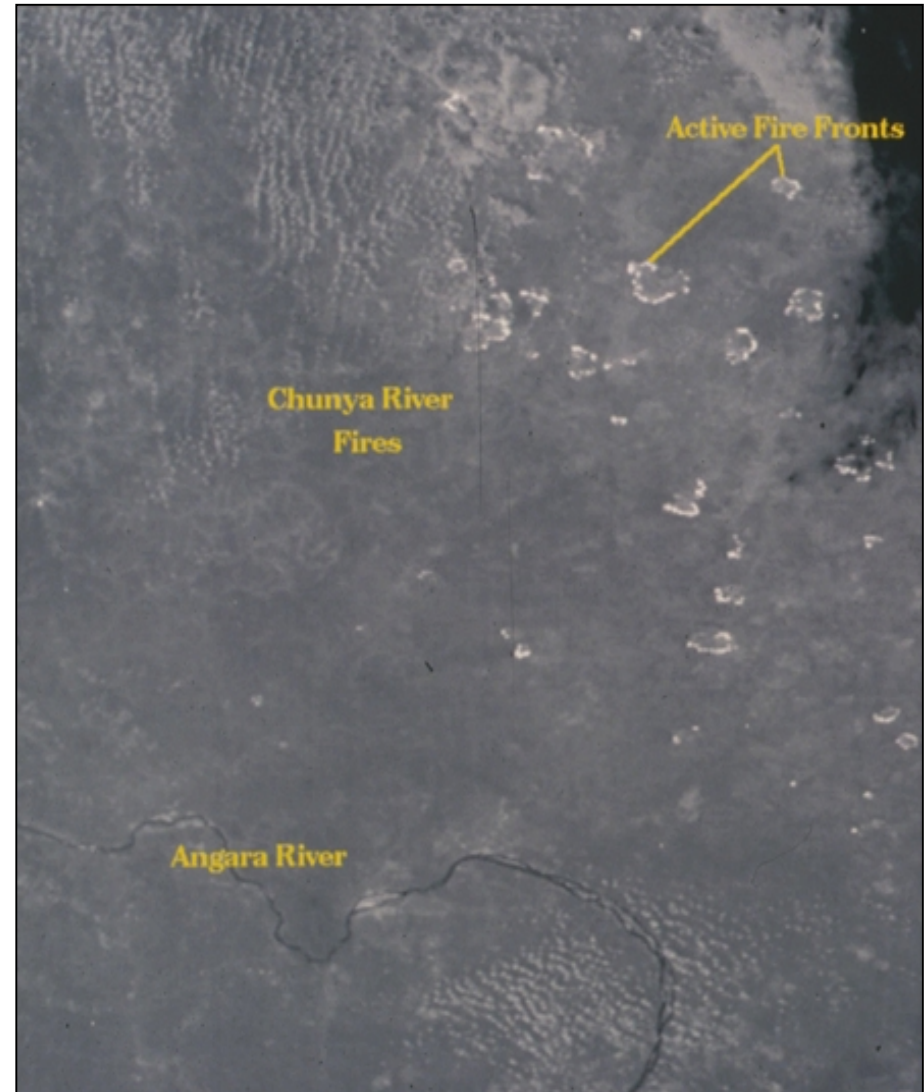
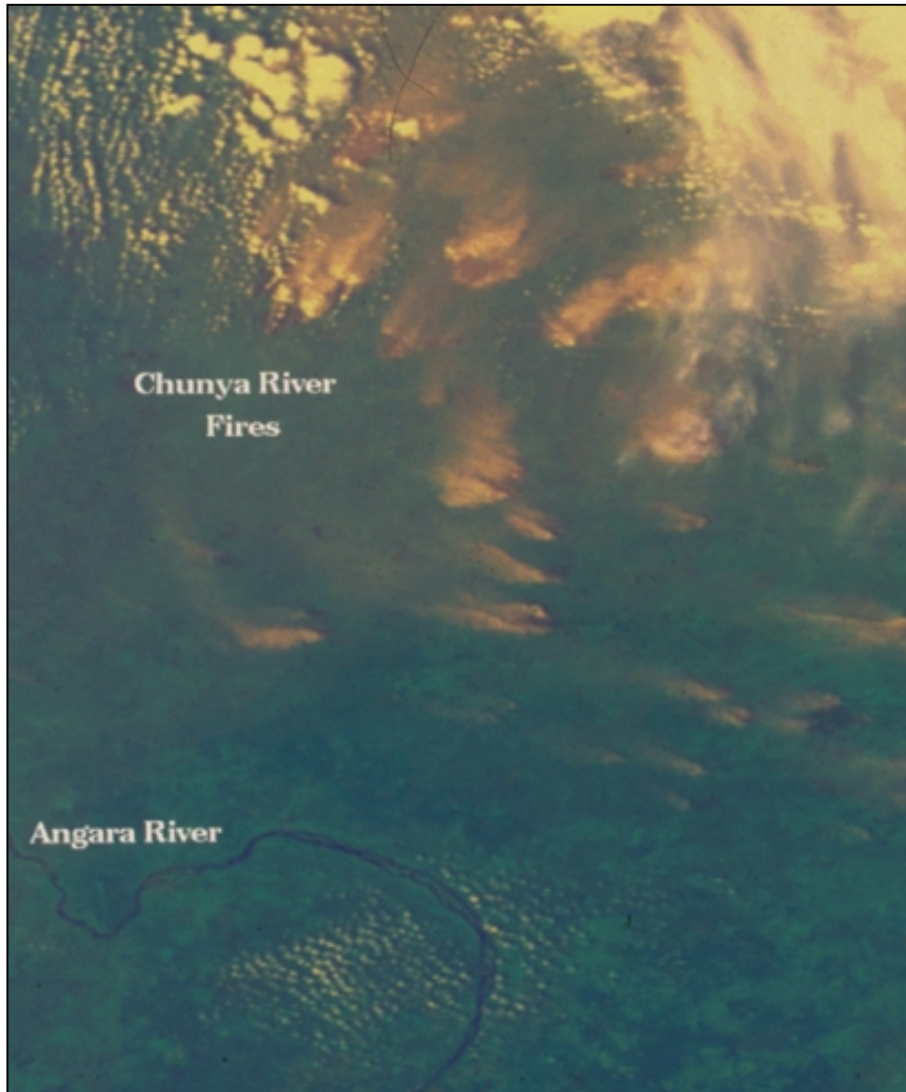
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# Large Forest Fires in Russia 1999



# Details of Forest Fires in Russia





**In 1996 the**

**UN ECE / FAO / ILO**

***Team of Specialists on Forest Fire***

**initiated the creation of a Forest Fire Forum  
in the Central-Northern European  
(Baltic) Region**



**Overall goal of the initiative:**

**Sharing of**

- \* research expertise**
- \* information**
- \* experience**
- \* resources**
- \* responsibility**

**in regional Baltic forest fire management**

## **Activities between 1996-2000**

**1996:** The UN Fire Team proposed a regional *Baltic Action Plan Concerning Collaboration in Forest Fire Protection* and to convene a first regional conference

**1998:** *First Baltic Conference on Forest Fires*  
Radom - Katowice (Poland)

**2000:** Baltic Exercise in Fire Information and Resources Exchange - BALTEX FIRE 2000  
(Finland)

**At the conference the establishment of pan-Baltic programs and exchange mechanisms was proposed in the fields of**

- \* fire research
- \* fire management training
- \* use of prescribed fire (in forestry, nature conservation, and landscape management)
- \* mutual fire emergency assistance

## **The Baltic 21 Action Programme:**

- \* Development of a concerted regional Baltic Forest Fire Action Plan
- \* The Baltic Exercise in Fire Information and Resources Exchange - BALTEX FIRE 2000 (Finland, June 2000)
- \* Creation of a Baltic Task Force on Forest Fire



## **Current Task Force Members:**

Estonia, Finland (chair), Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden

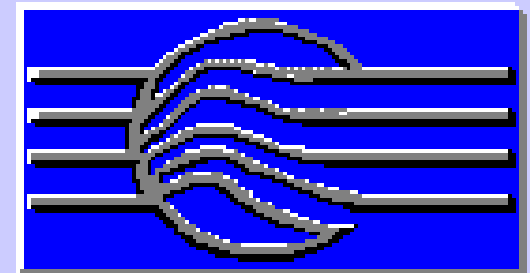
## **Observer Countries:**

Belarus, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom

# Key activity of the UN system in the field of disaster prevention - including forest fires:

\* International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 1990-1999

and its successor arrangement



\* International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)





Auswärtiges Amt

**In 1998 the German Foreign Office  
Office for Humanitarian Assistance  
financed the establishment of the  
*Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)*  
as a contribution to the IDNDR / ISDR**



GFMC

**The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)  
is a public facility for global fire**

- \* monitoring, interpretation, synthesis**
- \* archiving and distribution of data**
- \* decision-support**

**Availability and transfer of fire information via**

**< [http:// www.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe](http://www.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe) >**

# ***FIRE GLOBE***



**Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)**



The GFMC is an Activity of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

[Introduction](#)

**GFMC Partner:**

**International Search  
and Rescue Advisory  
Group (INSARAG)**



The United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in 1999 entrusted the GFMC to prepare the establishment of an INSARAG Wildland Fire Group (2000)

