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300 years of applied sustainability in forestry (F. Schmithusen Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)

As an economic activity, forestry has developed a utilization regime for natural renewable resources that can be practiced for extended periods of time. It aims at maintaining a combination of important forest functions through carbon management, biodiversity preservation, soil and water protection, landscape conservation, and social services provision. All these values can be maintained over several generations if the nature and extent of human interventions do not endanger the natural potential of forest ecosystems.

Today's guiding environmental principle of sustainability has its origins in forestry. In 1713 Hanns Carl von Carlowitz published his book *Silvicultura Oeconomica* and explained that the conservation and growing of wood should be undertaken in a continuing, stable and *sustained* utilization. This was a major step in acknowledging that forests could be managed as a non-exhausting renewable natural resource. Since 300 years the German terms sustainable (*nachhaltig*) and sustainability (*Nachhaltigkeit*) have been used for determining the principle of sustainable forest management. The practical significance of the terms has evolved over time yet retained its essential meaning as conceived by von Carlowitz.

The *Nachhaltigkeit* paradigm is the start of professionally driven forestry, which expanded from Central Europe to the rest of the world. Germany, France, Denmark, Norway, Russia, Spain and Portugal followed by India, Burma and USA adapted the principle of sustainability in their national systems of forestry and promoted professional forest management education. The way forest management was successfully developing within the principles of sustainability could be an example for other industries.

During 300 years of its existence the concept of sustainable forestry has changed and has passed a long way from sustainable wood production to multifunctional forest management. Forest ecology became an important sphere of applied and theoretical scientific research. The most significant goal for forest managers for many European countries now is to conserve genetic and landscape diversity. Among the forestry methods we see close-to-nature forestry practices and flexible and long-term production cycles. As well it became essential to balance private and public interests and to prioritize certain forest functions, the system needs a major shift from governmental and hierarchical regulatory systems to formalized negotiation procedures and participation of civil society.

Today forest is not only a resource but also an ecological factor that helps to resist environmental changes, also it can be a place for meditation and personal freedom for people. Thus acknowledging economic necessities and multiple social and environmental demands, multifunctional and close-to-nature forest management usually offers a range of land-use options that will fulfill our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

The rating of state forest management in the regions of Russian Federation in 2013 (according to 2012 data): its methods and results. (N. Shmatkov, A. Belyakova, Russian office of WWF, A. Grigoriev, SEU, E. Fiveyskaya, NRA)

In order to contribute to the solution of the problem of the lack of independent assessment of the quality of state forest management, Russian office of WWF, National Rating Agency and Federal Forestry Agency financially supported by the project “WWF-IKEA conservation partnership” carried out a rating of state forest management in the regions of Russian Federation.

Now this rating is the first attempt of independent integrated assessment of forest management in Russia. It takes into account a wide range of ecological, social and economic indicators. It is aimed to focus the attention of federal and regional policymakers on the necessity of sustainable forest management and on the existing problems in the industry.

The study was first organized in 2010 and then repeated in 2011 and 2012. Depending on a year 77-78 regions of Russian Federation participated in this research. The rating is based on 37 basic and 15 additional criteria. These criteria were aggregated in seven blocks: the organization of forest management and exploitation, law enforcement in forest sector, assessment of the quality of forest resources and forest health, protection of forests from fires, economic efficiency of forest management, ecological sustainability of forest management and information transparency and public participation in forest management. Information used for this rating was found in open sources such as internet sites of regional authorities responsible for forest management, the results of the survey among state authorities in Russian regions also were used in this analysis. Each criterion was estimated and then all the criteria were summarized into an individual regional rating from A (high quality of forest management) to C (low quality of forest management). The method of this rating as well implies weighting coefficients for specific geographical features of the regions. Thus to make the rating more accurate all the regions were divided into four clusters (sparsely wooded regions, richly wooded regions, medium wooded and little-developed regions). Within this rating were analyzed not only the factors of efficient forest management in its traditional meaning but also such factors as long term sustainability and protection of social and ecological forest functions.

The rating revealed the problem of the lack of reliable information about forests and deficiency in open sources of information. So one of the goals was to raise public awareness of this problem and to stimulate state and regional authorities to work on the solution for this problem for the benefit of all parties concerned. This rating promotes transparency and free access to reliable data about forests and therefore Russian office of WWF is going to continue its work in this important field.

Combating illegal forest cutting: the role of European legislation and the importance of civil society (an interview with Emily Unvin, social organization ClientEarth)

In the interview Emily Unwin a representative of the social organization ClientEarth shared the information about EU Timber Regulation, about the process of its implementation and about existing problems. ClientEarth is a social organization that works in the sphere of legal perspective of ecological problems such as energy, biodiversity, and forestry.

The main goal of EU Timber Regulation is to stop the illegal wood trade in EU and to reduce it significantly in the world. For now it is hard to say when will the Regulation start to work effectively because it depends greatly on the efforts of all parties concerned. The organization ClientEarth works on making Timber Regulation more efficient through the cooperation with civil society and state authorities in different countries. As we can find out from the interview, the biggest problem about the implementation of Timber Regulation is that different EU countries introduce it in the system of their national legislation in different way. This also happens because problems of wood trade have different levels of significance for different countries so the countries don't always understand the document in the same way. Therefore this is one more field of action for ClientEarth.

The 8th of November 2013 in Moscow ClientEarth held a round table for Russian nongovernmental organizations within its cooperation with civil society. The main goal of the cooperation between ClientEarth and Russian WWF office and other Russian nongovernmental organizations is to inform different parties about EU Timber Regulation and to receive more information from Russian experts about Russian forest legislation. Russia is a very important supplier for the European wood market so all the participants showed a great interest in such cooperation. In order to see positive results of EU Timber Regulation it is necessary that all the parties cooperate in the sphere of legal wood trade, therefore EarthClient plans to continue its activities in Russia and other countries.

New step on the way towards sustainable forest exploitation in Siberia (A. Bruhanov, , Russian office of WWF, E. Bubko, , Russian office of FSC, N. Shmatkov, E. Lepeshkin)

The 6th of December of 2013 the participants of the seminar “Voluntary forest certification as a way to achieve sustainable forestry” signed the resolution which contained recommendations for state and regional authorities, WWF, FSC and forest users.

Today Krasnoyarsk Territory is one of the leaders of voluntary forest certification in Russia. There are 3 millions of hectares of forests certificated in this region, which makes up 8% of all certificated forests in Russia, also in the Territory there are 13 certificated supply chains. Among FSC certificated products one can find round wood, wood chips, veneer, carving wood and construction materials. Nevertheless Siberian taiga is also very promising in the sense of development of non-timber and alimentary forest products and application of the concept of ecosystem services.

In the resolution it was recommended to Russian Ministry of natural resources and ecology to support the development of renting relationships in the field of production of alimentary forest products, to improve the legislation in this sphere and to involve academic institutions in the elaboration of new methods for intensive forestry and complex exploitation of forest resources.

Also the participants of the seminar addressed to the authorities of Krasnoyarsk Territory with suggestions to approve The Programme of multifunctional and sustainable forestry in Krasnoyarsk Territory, it was also suggested to support wooden house building in the Territory subject to adherence to the international standards of green building and to promote the efficient recycling of logging residues into biofuel or alimentary and cosmetic products.

As well it was recommended to WWF, FSC and all the forest users to support the projects of voluntary forest certification and complex exploitation of forest resources in Krasnoyarsk Territory in order to promote sustainable forestry. The resolution was signed by the representative of Forest Agency of Ministry of natural resources and ecology in Krasnoyarsk Territory M.V. Malkevich and by the representative of Russian office of WWF forest programme N.M. Smatkov.

Bioenergetics as a development factor for intensive model of forest management in Republic of Komi (A. Krivoshein, Syktyvkar Forest Institute)

The Komi Republic possesses a significant forest potential. There are about 33 mln m³ of calculated felling rate in the region but only for 15 mln m³ felling is economically reasonable. Since forestry is almost the only source of income for some parts of the republic it is very important to promote the intensive model of forest management. The intensification of forest management in this case means maximization of the production of timber on the forest area through such activities as forest restoration, improvement thinning and minimization of possible damages from fires or injurious organisms.

On the way towards intensive model of forest management Komi Republic can use positive experience of Finnish forest industry. In Finland cleaning and liberation cutting are economically profitable not only because of government support but also because of commercial demand for all sorts of wood assortment which can be used for biofuel production. In order to support renewable sources of energy and to make them more competitive Finnish government imposes taxes on the usage of fossil fuel for the production of electricity and heat. Also the government offers financial help for the implementation of new innovative equipment that produces chipped wood. Moreover investment is offered for the scientific research in the sphere of energy production using biofuel. As a result through the support of bioenergetics Finnish government supports the intensive model of forestry.

Russian Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology Sergey Donskoy agreed that utilization of wood as a source of renewable energy is a way to achieve the intensive model of forestry and to guarantee economic development, social well-being and environmental security. In 2013 Russian government approved the Plan of measures for the creation of favorable conditions for the utilization of wood products as a source of heating and electric energy. The plan includes 12 measures such as the study of international experience, the creation of online catalogue of best available technologies in bioenergetics, the creation of a list of oil-fired boilers that are to be substituted by those that will work on biofuel.

The Komi Republic is ready to participate in the development of bioenergetics especially in its forested areas. It is decided to make bioenergetics a significant sector of the regional economy. Since 2011 there will have been built eleven platforms for the storage of forest product residues. This way these residues will be concentrated in certain area which will help to estimate their volume and to minimize the transportation costs. Moreover in 2013 the government of the Komi Republic approved the sub-programme “The usage of low-grade wood and of forest product residues for the production of hot water, heating and electrical energy”. This development of bioenergetics in Komi Republic becomes even more important when we see that it can be a great incentive for the development of intensive forestry in other regions of Russia.

FSC global market survey report for 2012 (A.E. Paetz, J. Nierentz, E. Crumley, Ph. Guillery, J. Hontelez, FSC)

FSC is a global, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. It enables businesses and consumers to make informed choices about the forest products they buy, and drive positive change by engaging the power of market dynamics. FSC has a global presence, with representations in 80 markets. Through an unbroken chain of the Forest Management certification (FM) and the Chain of Custody (CoC) certification FSC maintains its system credibility. There currently are 24,414 Chain of Custody certificates and 1,172 Forest Management Certificates in the world.

The Global Market Survey is FSC's annual survey of all certificate holders, certified companies and operations, and aims to understand their perceptions of FSC. In 2012, for the third consecutive year, FSC contacted all of its certificate holders and asked them to share their opinions and thoughts. The sample consisted of each valid certificate for which a valid email address was provided. The survey was offered in 15 different languages and was conducted online by the independent research institute Zentrum für Evaluation und Methoden (ZEM), based at the University of Bonn, Germany. Participation in the survey was on a voluntary basis, and the data FSC received from ZEM was anonymized.

In total, 4,595 certificate holders responded to the survey, representing 18.5 percent of the 24,473 certificate holders with valid addresses who were contacted. 35.2 percent of the 2012 respondents also participated in the 2011 survey. 98 percent of all respondents see the value that FSC certification adds to their products and businesses, and plan to keep their FSC certification.

Printers present the largest group of FSC certified businesses with 29.9 percent. Paper-based products are the most frequently traded FSC certified product, mostly traded by companies in Europe and Asia. 43 percent of respondents are trading mostly paper-based products.

The green building sector has come in as a strong driver of FSC certified materials used in construction. Schemes like the USA's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) which came into effect in 2012, and Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) use the detailed structure of certification schemes to evaluate responsible forestry operations. LEED and BREEAM, for example, provide credits for FSC certified products.

Demand for FSC certified products is increasing most for tissue paper (reported by 76% of respondents) and for non-timber forest products (stated by 71 % of all respondents), which include rubber, food and drinks, cosmetics or bamboo. Client demands and improved market access are the major reasons for FSC certification. 93 percent of respondents find that the biggest impact of FSC certification is that it makes transparent that products are from well-managed forests. 89 per-cent consider the fact that certification helps to maintain biodiversity in managed forests as an impact of FSC certification. Companies that had recently decided to get FSC certification named economic advantages and better prices, as well as demand-based reasons such as improved market access and client demands, as their main rationale. Many companies and organizations have chosen to incorporate FSC into their overall CSR strategy as they

recognized FSC as one of the most rigorous and credible independent certification schemes available globally.

Overall, respondents saw a growing relevance of FSC in the market. In total 57% of the respondents across all sectors saw an increase, 33.2% perceived a stable situation and only 8.9% saw a decrease in the relevance of FSC. The results show the growing awareness amongst consumers and stakeholders about responsible forestry and an important role that FSC plays in addressing environmental, social and economic challenges.

Ecological rating “Green Wood 2013”: an FSC survey for customers who prefer ecological wood products. (D. Shatilo, Russian office of FSC)

According to the FSC survey in Russia there is a payable demand for the products from ecologically responsible producers. 30% of the buyers are ready to take into account the factors of ecological safety and legality of the product while purchasing it. To find out whether there was a supply of such products on the Russian market, FSC decided to make a ecological rating of the companies producers of furniture and flooring.

In this analysis the working group of experts estimated the legality of the origin of the wood (whether it had an international FSC or PEFC certificate, whether it included wood prohibited for the cutting and included in CITES lists, and whether any information about the origin and the species composition of wood used in the product was provided). Another factor analyzed by the expert was the safety of the product for consumers' health and life; it was defined by the amount of poisonous substances (such as benzene, formaldehyde or phenol). And finally the third factor that experts took into account was the ecological policy of the company which included their willingness to provide the information, their participation in ecological activities and their efforts to reduce their consumption of energy and resources.

104 most popular flooring and furniture companies participated in this research. During the research these companies were asked to fill the form on the FSC website, also the experts studied official websites of the companies, range of goods offered in the stores and questioned the shop assistants.

The rating itself consists of four categories of ecological responsibility (A+, A, B+, B). 50% of the flooring companies were put in the worst category, the biggest problem for the flooring companies appeared to be the usage of tropical species that are listed in CITES appendix. Only two companies Chers and Lider-parket were put in the category A+. The situation on the furniture market appeared to be much more positive: only 36% of companies were put in the lowest category and five companies (IKEA, Kinarps, STOSA, AVA COMPANY and Woodworking plant number 1) were put in the category A+. Over all furniture companies showed more ecological consciousness and responsibility.

The goal of these rating was to attract producers' and consumers' attention to the problem of sustainable and responsible forest management. To highlight this idea even more the most ecologically responsible companies were awarded with “Good wood 2013” prizes in order to encourage their efforts and other companies.