

Forest policy in modern Russia

Intact forest territories in Russia: their current estate and the losses of the last 13 years (M. Karpachevsky, D. Aksenov, E. Yesipova, N. Vladimirova, I. Danilova, non-profit partnership “Transparent world”, K. Kobyakov, WWF Russia, I. Zhuravleva, Greenpeace Russia)

Position of Russian nongovernmental environmental organizations in respect of intact forest territories

Analysis of the sustainability of forestry in case of adoption of new legislative initiatives using 100-km zone around the Segezhsky pulp and paper mill as an example (E. Lopatin, M. Trishkin, K. Kobyakov, A. Shipilov, T. Leinonen, T. Kalalyaynen)

Evaluation of possible volumes of forest exploitation around the territory of OJSC “Segezhsky pulp and paper mill”. (A. Rodionov, A. Korosov, V. Golubev, A. Zarodov, A. Markovsky, Interregional Non-governmental Organization “Northern Environmental Coalition”)

Overview of forest policy and forest legislation of the Republic of Belarus: ensuring legality of forest exploitation, fighting against illegal logging and the black markets and monitoring forestry companies. (D. Krasovsky, Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, V. Usrnya,)

Business and sustainable forest exploitation

Results of the survey among the CEOs in Russian forestry sector about their work under conditions of the new European forest regulation. (N. Shmatkov, A. Shchegolev, WWF Russia, O. Karavaeva, Yuriy Levada analytical center, R. Verin, NEPCon)

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Training courses for FSC consultants (A. Belyakova, WWF Russia, V. Gerasimov, LLC “Tehkarta”)

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Intact forest territories in Russia: their current estate and the losses of the last 13 years (M. Karpachevsky, D. Aksenov, E. Yesipova, N. Vladimirova, I. Danilova, non-profit partnership “Transparent world”, K. Kobyakov, WWF Russia, I. Zhuravleva, Greenpeace Russia)

The term “intact forest territories” stands for the territories of wild nature that are situated in forest zone, have the area of more than 50 000 ha, cover different landscapes, don’t include any settlements or infrastructure and have never been disturbed by intensive anthropogenic activities. These territories are extremely valuable due to their ecosystem services and high level of sustainability. Conservation of these territories is the biggest contribution of Russia to the execution of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Yet still intact forest territories are not protected enough by Russian legislation, only 5,4% of their territories form part of specially protected natural areas and there are no other special mechanisms for their protection. The area of intact forest territories keeps shrinking even in the FSC certified forests. From 2000 to 2013 the reduction of the area was 7,5% or 255 million hectares. The main causes of such reduction are fires, logging and building forest infrastructure or exploration, production and transportation of natural resources, the influence of particular factor vary in different regions. Though even in FSC certified forests the area of intact forest territories is decreasing, it is still one of the most effective ways of their protection through the negotiations between forestry companies and environmental nongovernmental organizations.

Position of Russian nongovernmental environmental organizations in respect of intact forest territories

Intact forest territories are the territories of wild nature that are situated in forest zone, have the area of more than 50 000 ha, cover different landscapes, don't include any settlements or infrastructure and have never been disturbed by intensive anthropogenic activities. They also form part of the forests of high conservation value and therefore significant parts of these territories should be excluded from economic activities and for the rest of it only the best practices can be applied. It is impossible to conserve intact forest territories if their fragmentation and economic exploitation doesn't stop, moreover it will be impossible to recover them. Thus it is very important that forest businesses consider environmental risks before renting these territories. If the company rents the area, not less than 50% should be excluded from exploitation. Total area of an intact forest territory always should be more than 50 000 ha. It should be zoned according to the ecological value of different areas, and forest management should be exercised in compliance with such zoning. Biodiversity conservation is a priority so the methods of forestry should follow certain rules that allow to minimize anthropogenic influence. Overall if the territories rented by a company include intact forest territories, the company is obliged to take measures for the conservation of such territories and to follow the FSC standards.

Analysis of the sustainability of forestry in case of adoption of new legislative initiatives using 100-km zone around the Segezhsky pulp and paper mill as an example (E. Lopatin, M. Trishkin, K. Kobayakov, A. Shipilov, T. Leinonen, T. Kalalyaynen)

In 2014 it was suggested by the representatives of forest business to reduce the age of cutting from 100 to 40 years in order to increase the profitability of the forest sector. The goal of this study was to analyze the possible consequences of such reduction in the area around the Segezhsky pulp and paper mill through the analysis of space images and computer simulation of three different scenarios for a period of 100 years. The scenarios were: for the existing standards, for the reduction of cutting age and for maximum consumption of wood by Segezhsky pulp and paper mill. Results of the study show that currently existing standards don't guarantee sustainable forest exploitation and the reduction of cutting age will lead to a significant imbalance and non-optimal forest age structure. Therefore the profitability of the forest sector should be raised through forestry intensification, forest maintenance, economic planning and application of best methods and technologies.

Evaluation of possible volumes of forest exploitation around the territory of OJSC “Segezhsky pulp and paper mill”. (A. Rodionov, A. Korosov, V. Golubev, A. Zarodov, A. Markovsky, Interregional Non-governmental Organization “Northern Environmental Coalition”)

Forestry intensification has been widely discussed for a last few years, and though we have examples of Finland and Sweden, the outcome of intensification in Russian forests especially through the reduction of cutting age still needs to be carefully studied. This particular study evaluated possible volumes of forest use around the territory of Segezhsky pulp and paper mill for the period of 100 years. For the analysis were used volumes of exploitation of ripe and overripe forests according to existing forest regulation, according to the author’s technique of calculation, also were analyzed volumes that will be found in case of cutting age reduction to 41-51 years for coniferous, 21-31 for deciduous, and to the minimum of 21-31 for coniferous and 11-15 for deciduous. Results of the study show that forest exploitation at the level of existing regulation will not provide Segezhsky pulp and paper mill with wood for the period of 100 years, if forest exploitation will be calculated according to author’s technique the mill will be provided with resources for 80-100% for 100 years, in case of cutting age reduction the production of wood can increase 1,4-1,7 times but forest age structure will change dramatically. The consequences of such changes should be carefully examined before reducing cutting age for the sake of forestry intensification.

Overview of forest policy and forest legislation of the Republic of Belarus: ensuring legality of forest exploitation, fighting against illegal logging and black markets and monitoring forestry companies. (D. Krasovsky, Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, V. Usrnya,)

Forest policy in the Republic of Belarus follows the principles of sustainable, integrated, multipurpose exploitation of forest resources that guarantees conservation of biological and landscape diversity, and conservation of their ecosystem functions. Government plays a significant part in forest management. Now the priorities for policymakers are the improvement of forest management structure, development of service sector in forestry, reduction of public subsidies, integration of the best methods and technologies, development of multipurpose forest management, forest certification and development of ecological tourism. Wide system of legislation helps to regulate the way forest policy is performed. The key to ensuring legality of forest exploitation is the process of forest inventory and felling permit that helps to control forestry companies. The Republic of Belarus does well in the fight against illegal logging and black markets through an efficient system of forest control and protection, and through the constant educational work with society. System of forestry as well as forestry legislation is constantly improving in order to guarantee sustainable and rational forestry in the Republic of Belarus.

Results of the survey among forest entrepreneurs about their work under the conditions of new European timber regulation (N. Shmatkov, A. Shchegovec, WWF Russia, O. Karavaeva, Yuriy Levada analytical center, R. Verin, NEPCon)

The goal of the survey was to analyze the level of Russian timber exporters' awareness of new European timber regulation and its requirements. As well, the study examined the attitude of Russian companies towards new regulation, their expectations and their results in fighting illegal logging. 100 forest exporters from 13 Russian regions participated in the survey through the telephone or online interview. Results of the survey proved that the majority of the companies is familiar with new rules yet this knowledge is not very profound. In addition, the results show that application of new standards hasn't become efficient yet, and most exporters didn't notice any significant changes. Moreover many companies find new requirements very formal and bureaucratic. A lot of work needs to be done in this field especially after the study proved that a lot of companies cannot be completely sure about the legal origin of the materials they buy. The situation is most serious in Far East and this study reveals great problem with illegal logging in the region. Besides the high level of awareness, not all the companies understand new requirements correctly and meet them efficiently. Thus informational and explanatory work among Russian forestry companies should continue.

Training courses for FSC consultants (A. Belyakova, WWF Russia, V. Gerasimov, LLC “Tehkarta”)

Training courses for FSC consultants offer to courses: basic and advanced for potential FSC consultants, actual specialists in FSC certification and all representatives of forest sector stakeholders. Through the process of active learning, seminars and practical lessons these courses provide all necessary information about forest certification and audit, ecological and social aspects of forest sector, etc. the courses are held by most experienced and competent tutors which guarantees their positive results. The courses are held in 2015 and 2016 in different regions of Russia.