

### **Forest policy in modern Russia**

Conceptual approaches to the creation of the national forest heritage of Russian Federation (D. Aksenov, non-profit partnership “Transparent world”, K. Kobayakov, N. Shmatkov, WWF Russia, A. Yaroshenko, Greenpeace Russia)

Analysis of compliance of current legislation with the standards of intensive forestry. (A. Serov, D. Gerasimov, E. Popova, Ltd “Tehkarta”)

Belorussian experience of economically efficient and ecologically sustainable forestry: forest reproduction, forest tending and harvesting. (V. Shtravko, Belorussian Ministry of forestry, V. Usenya, State Scientific Institution “Forest Institute of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus”)

Position of WWF Russia in respect of forest planting.

### **Business and sustainable forest exploitation**

Declaration of Boreal Forest Problem

Platform “New Generation Plantations” on its way to sustainable intensification (L.N. Silva, WWF International, M. May, Suzano/Futuragene)

Decision of the interregional research and production meeting “Multipurpose forestry and forest restoration in Siberian cedar forests: challenges and perspectives.”

Perfecting cutting in cedar forests. (E. Titov, honored forester of Russian Federation)

Forestry in cedar forests in the period of prohibited industrial cutting. (N. Debkov, National Research Tomsk State Institute)

Cedar museum in Zabaykalsky Krai (N. Harchenko, E. But’ko, Ministry of natural resources and industrial policy in Zabaikalsky Krai)

The seminar “Extension of the experience of multipurpose exploitation of forest resources” (N. Stashevich, N. Shmatkov, WWF Russia)

### **Forest certification**

The results of the round table “Perfecting management practices for the forests of high conservation value in Krasnoyarsk region” (A. Bruhanov, WWF Russia, E. Bubko, FSC Russia)

### **News from EMPI-FLEG II**

### **News from IUFRO**

### **New publications**

Intact forest territories in Russia: current estate and losses of the last 13 years

**Conceptual approaches to the creation of the national forest heritage of Russian Federation (D. Aksenov, non-profit partnership “Transparent world”, K. Kobayakov, N. Shmatkov, WWF Russia, A. Yaroshenko, Greenpeace Russia)**

The importance of conservation of forest biodiversity and ecosystem services creates a necessity for a new category such as National forest heritage. This category is also essential for the transition from extensive to intensive forestry, for the support of responsible forest industrialists and for the promotion of multipurpose forest exploitation.

National forest heritage is a category of forests that should be excluded from any kind of economic activities. Apart from being especially valuable for unique ecosystems, populations and biodiversity forests included in this list should as well should have the ability of self-maintenance. National forest heritage can include such categories as intact forest landscapes, forests with high biodiversity and forests of a significant scientific or historical interest.

In the system of Russian legislation National forest heritage can take for either of Protected Areas or of additional categories of protection forests, which will require some changes in current legislative acts. Now the development of the National forest heritage should proceed with the definition of criteria for such forests, all necessary changes in Russian legislation, formation of working group and application of this new status to the certain forest areas.

**Analysis of compliance of current legislation with the standards of intensive forestry. (A. Serov, D. Gerasimov, E. Popova, Ltd “Tehkarta”)**

The possibility of application of the concept of intensive forestry has been being discussed for 15 years already. Yet not all of Russian legislative acts comply with the standards of intensive forestry. One of the examples of such situation is the annual allowable cut that defines the amount of wood permitted to be harvested according to the order number 191 of Russian Federal Forest Agency.

First, in order to comply with the standards of intensive forestry annual allowable cut should show the amount of exploitation for 10 years and for the period of forest cultivation which is 100 years or more. Second, it should be calculated separately for economically approachable and not approachable forests. It should be a long-term category and take into account different scenarios of forest management activities. Only reliable and easy to get data should be used for its calculation. And annual allowable cut for forest district should be equal to the sum of annual allowable cuts for its subdistricts. This suggestions should be reflected in the changes in current legislation in order for it to comply with the standards of intensive forestry.

**Belorussian experience of economically efficient and ecologically sustainable forestry: forest reproduction, forest tending and harvesting. (V. Shtravko, Belorussian Ministry of forestry, V. Usenya, State Scientific Institution “Forest Institute of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus”)**

Forest is one of the biggest treasures of Belorussian Republic, moreover it is in top ten most forested European countries. Forestry in Belarus complies with all the international standards. FSC certificated forests comprise 55% of total forest area, while PEFC certificated forests comprise even more – 98%. State forestry institutions take the form of legal institutions and are responsible for all forest management activities.

Forest management includes contribution to natural reforestation: tillage operations and seeding, which are exercised on the area of 5000 ha. There is a state programme for the development of forest nurseries and there are currently 68 of them covering the area of 1300 ha. Each year the investment in forest nursing industry comprises 8 billion of Belarussian rubles but the profit in to 2013 was equal to 24,5 billion and continues to grow. Within the forest management great attention is paid to the conservation and improvement of genetic resources through seed banks and selection.

From year to year economic efficiency and intensity of forest exploitation continues to grow, infrastructure is being developed and the role of forest sector increases. Though there are still some problems to solve, such as the improvement of species composition or age structure of Belarussian forests.

### **Position of WWF Russia in respect of forest planting.**

Forest restoration is an important aspect of forest management and any of the other aspects in should be reasonable, scientifically justified and purposeful. The goal of forest restoration is to prevent forests from vanishing and degradation. Unfortunately very often forest restoration covers only planting and doesn't include the maintenance of the plantation and therefore more than half of such plantations die out.

WWF thinks that forest restoration on rented areas lies within responsibility of forest renter. Also WWF supports forests restoration only if it isn't an attempt to compensate non sustainable forestry models, but if it promotes best practices, promotes intensive and sustainable forestry and conservation of biodiversity. Forest restoration projects should be fulfilled for those territories where natural forest restoration for some reason is complicate, for especially valuable forest territories in the sense of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and as well for the territories that can serve as an example of intensive forestry. WWF doesn't support forest restoration on the territories that naturally are not forested, on the territories where natural forest restoration is possible and on the territories where planted trees have little chance to survive.

## **Declaration of Boreal Forest Problem**

Sustainable intensive forestry means increasing efficiency and profitability of forest exploitation, sustainable forest management in the most productive areas, provision of forest industry with raw materials and conservation of intact forest landscapes and other especially valuable and protection forests. Transition to the intensive forestry require economic and legislative incentives for forest businesses, the development of transport infrastructure and increasing role of forest industrialists and population in the process of decision making.

Boreal Forest Platform is a platform for forest companies, state authorities and consumers of forest industry where they can exchange opinions share their experience and cooperate in the field of education and information. The platform is aimed at the development of mechanisms for business stimulation and investment protection. Another goal is to change the legislation, to turn boreal forests into sustainable source of forest products, as well as a source of decent workplaces. It will promote the transition towards the intensive forestry. In 2015 the declaration of Boreal forest platform must be signed as well as roadmap and website should be developed.

**Platform “New Generation Plantations” on its way to sustainable intensification (L.N. Silva, WWF International, M. May, Suzano/Futuragene)**

Properly managed forest plantations can contribute to the conservation of natural forests, soil reclamation and increasing efficiency of forest exploitation. Seven years of experience of educational and informational platform “New generation plantations” prove that thoughtful mosaic landscape structure gives the opportunity to obtain both economic profit and social and ecological sustainability. Main principles of New generation plantations are: the cooperation between all the parties concerned, protection the areas of high conservation value and profitability of plantations. Organizing a plantation it is necessary to take into account the influence of other sectors especially agriculture; it is important to prevent forest conversion and to restore land productivity.

Overall the platform promotes the transition of forestry towards sustainable intensive model that contributes to economic growth through environmental protection for the benefit of all parties concerned.

### **Perfecting cutting in cedar forests. (E.Titov, honored forester of Russian Federation)**

Though in 1990 final felling in valuable cedar forests was prohibited, in 2014 appeared the idea of cancellation of this decision. Nevertheless it is important to understand that final felling in such forests doesn't comply with the standards of multipurpose forestry, and can harm significantly the harvest of cedar nuts.

The best way of solution of this collision of interests is to cut trees at the age of 260-320 years when their nut productivity dramatically decreases and the quality of timber also starts to go down. The tree can be cut if its productivity is 1,5 times lower than average. Such selective logging provides the opportunity to develop efficiently cedar nut industry and to supply markets with valuable cedar wood in accordance with the standards of sustainable multipurpose forestry.

**Forestry in cedar forests in the period of prohibited industrial cutting. (N. Debkov, National Research Tomsk State Institute)**

In 1989 final felling was prohibited in cedar forests, it saved these forests from disappearance but didn't solve completely the problem of their reforestation and rational exploitation. In 2000 were developed Temporary rules for cutting in cedar forests and potentially cedar forests. The rules were tested in the period of 2001-2006 and in 2014 scientists investigated the results of their application.

The results of the study show that the rules were applied disproportionally and from all different cutting systems only industrial reconstructive cutting was applied. It is necessary now to conserve the trees with diameter less than 28 cm and to maintain young forests. Cedar cutting should be differentiated with reference to geographical conditions and should be based on the analysis of its ecological functions and on correct economic calculation. It is essential to protect intact cedar forest landscapes before it is thoroughly studied. Overall the study showed that rules were not applied as effectively as they could had been applied, yet also it proved that even industrial clear felling of cedar forests can be sustainable if it is based on scientific conclusions.

## **Cedar museum in Zabaykalsky Krai (N. Harchenko, E. But'ko, Ministry of natural resources and industrial policy in Zabaikalsky Krai)**

Siberian cedar is one of the most important tree species in Trans-Baikal area. It is not just a source of woody and non-woody plant resources but also an important factor of climate and water balance regulation as well as great resource for recreation.

October, 30 of 2014 Zabaikalsky A. K. Kuznetsov local history museum presented the project of Cedar museum. The creation of this museum is widely supported by regional authorities, scientists, businessmen and nature lovers. The museum aims at promotion of ecological culture, patriotic values and tourism in the region. Museum consists of four parts : geography and ecology of cedar, Siberian cedar in Russia, Siberian cedar in Trans Baikal region and conservation of cedar forests. Currently the workers of museum develop the project of the separate building for it in Chita surrounding area for cedar alleys and reconstruction of elements of cedar harvesting.

