

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

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Republic of Belarus

Country Report

The legislative frameworks to ensure high-level forest management in the Republic of Belarus have been developed. The first of these are: the Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus, adopted in 2000; Declaration of the President of the Republic of Belarus on improving the forest management, the National Forest Program for 2007–2011, that is successfully being implemented, as well as other law acts.

The Republic of Belarus has deep traditions in the area of forest management, as well as a high level of forest management and multiple-use of forest resources. The country contributes to the conservation of forests and environmental stability at the regional and global levels.

In order to further development of forest policy and solving issues connected with forests are currently being implemented a number of arrangements focused on the separation of supervisory and management activities through improvement the State control over such actions as the use, reservation, protection and renewal of forest resources as well as by phased separation logging activities from silviculture practices.

In order to successfully carry out these actions there were prepared some changes in the forest legislation to abolish the licensing for the harvesting and wood processing, which makes it possible more rapidly develop the forestry services, especially in logging, which is very vital in response to existing and expected lack of labour in rural areas and the need to reduce outlays related to forestry.

There has been carried out the complex work to improve the profitability of forestry, primarily through increase sales of forest and wood products at markets, development of hunting and fully using the potential of forest resources.

In order to perform the principles of sustainable forest management and forestry government, as well as to improve efficiency and multiple-use of forest resources on the base of sustainable forest management the following issues are currently being solved:

- Improvement of current institutional and economic frameworks for forest management.
- Increasing incomes from forests.
- Development of market-based ways for timber realise through mechanism of Timber exchange trading, and the reduction of sale wood on the stump.
- Improvement of the system of sustainable forest management and forest government, implement works on forest certification.