

Russia's report for UNECE/FAO Workshop on policy consequences of the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS)

20-21 June 2005, Budapest

1. In what way are the EFSOS 'Conclusions and Policy Recommendations' (pages 209-226) relevant for your country?

The analysis presented in EFSOS has described the trends in the forest sector of Russian Federation over the last few decades and outlook to 2020 correctly. Many EFSOS 'Conclusions and Policy Recommendations' are important for Russia.

Russia is one of the major forest powers in the world. Russia's forests are mainly boreal ones. As of January 1, 2003, the total area of lands managed for forestry purposes (the national forest fund) and forests that are not included in the forest fund was estimated in the Russian Federation at 1178.7 million ha with the stock of 82.1 billion cubic meters of timber. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation controls 1132.5 million ha of the forest fund or 96.1 % of all forests area with the total stock of timber of 76.2 billion cubic meters. Only 55% of the total forested area of the Russian Federation is considered to be potentially accessible ecologically or economically. A major part of these forests are located in the North European region and along the Trans-Siberian railway. These are areas that already were intensively logged during the past decades.

Being one of the most important factors in the economic growth of the Russian Federation, forest resource potential as well as its environmental value is utilized ineffectively. Possessing almost a quarter of the world forests, Russia produces only 3% of the global forestry production using only 20% of its Annual Allowable Cut.

Current reform of Russia's forestry is aimed at: the establishment of reasonable, profitable, cost-effective, and competitive production; providing favorable conditions and extended opportunities for foreign and domestic investors in the forest sector; capital accumulation in the most prioritized areas; development of the forest export; changing the existing structure of the forest export and shifting towards deep timber processing; small business support; intensification of the state control. One of the central elements of the forestry sector reconstruction, which would lead out of the crisis and direct towards sustainability, is the advanced production development on the basis of wood processing located in the regions of major harvesting.

State Forest Agency of Ministry of Nature Resources had developed Concept of Forestry Development for the period between 2003-2010 in order to define the most prioritized directions of national forest policy development. The Government of the Russian Federation had approved this Concept. This Concept contains some suggestions on a number of measures to increase forest utilization effectiveness. Stabilized forest activities and production volumes, quality improvements and effectiveness enhancement are predicted for the above-mentioned period. Striving to improve Forest Fund quality, the following activities have been planned until the year 2010: to conduct reforestation over the area of 7 mill. ha; to bring young stands into the "valuable stands" category over the area of 9.5 mill. ha; to build 5.4 thousand km of roads for forestry transportation needs.

Further elaboration of forest legislation and subsequent development of the new edition of the Forest Code of the Russian Federation are stipulated by the acceptance appropriate by-law, and also subordinated normative legal documents.

The subprogramme "Forests" of the Federal target program "Ecology and natural resources of Russia (2002-2010)" is carried out now. The purpose of the subprogramme – preservation and reproduction of forests as the raw-material base providing needs of economy and the population in wood and non-timber production, and as the overwhelmingly important component of the environment on the basis of rational and inexhaustible forest management. State Forest Agency had developed "Program of Forest inventory and Forest management planning for the period 2003-

2010". Purpose of this program is development and realization of forest management planning in the regions of the Russian Federation for maintenance trustworthy information about forest resources.

2. Which of the policy scenario assumptions made in EFSOS fits best to the situation in your country (see Chapter 3)?

The forest sector of Russia is on the way of reforms therefore the 'Baseline' scenario or 'Integration' scenario is equiprobably.

3. What kind of significant changes are you expecting with regard to your country's forest sector policy in the next 3-5 years as a (direct or indirect) result of the EFSOS analysis, conclusions and recommendations?

EFSOS renders weak influence on the Russia's forest policy.

The National Forest Policy is presently under the revision. Its major goals are to bring forestry into the leading positions, to reconstruct forest sector towards sustainable development, and to improve forest management. Thorough changes in juridical, structural and economic backgrounds of the forest preservation and its sustainable use are envisaged in the ongoing reform.

New edition of the Forest Code of the Russian Federation will be accepted in the near future. The Forest Code increases terms of rent considerably and supposes an opportunity of private property on forests.

4. Who uses the information, conclusions and recommendations presented in EFSOS in your country? Who else could potentially benefit from EFSOS?

The information, conclusions and recommendations presented in EFSOS will be used by staff members of Federal Forest Agency, International Forest Center of All-Russian Research Institute for Sylviculture and Mechanization of Forestry, Institute for Improvement of Professional Skill of Forestry Workers of Federal Forest Agency.

5. What process is used to make EFSOS known and review it at the national level?

Publications of review in the professional newspapers, magazines and web site of Ministry of Nature Resources of the Russian Federation, presentation on the professional meetings will be used to make EFSOS known in Russia's forest sector.

6. What are significant information/analysis/ideas to national policy debate (inside and outside sector) added by EFSOS?

Any significant information/analysis/ideas to national policy debate (inside and outside sector) is not added by EFSOS

7. Do you have any comments on the EFSOS country profile for your country (see attachment)?

Absent

8. What are your suggestions and comments with regard to further UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook activities?

Future UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook activities should be continued.

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