



Resolution of a practical field workshop in the Republic of Komi 'Intensive and sustainable forestry' (5-7 October 2015).

The Boreal Forest Platform was launched with the support of Mondi, Silver Taiga Fund and World Wildlife Fund. The first field workshop at the international level was held in the Republic of Komi on 5-7 October.

The field workshop 'Intensive and sustainable forestry' marked the start of the platform, which is an expert site for experience exchange and development of the legal base required to promote intensive forestry and is also an information resource.

More than 30 experts from various regions of Russia and Finland took part in the workshop. They were representatives of major forest industries, public and scientific organizations, state forest management bodies. During the discussions were raised critical, controversial issues of intensive forest management development, from economic feasibility of new approaches to safeguards of long-term investments in their implementation.

During the field workshop the participants visited the production and demonstration sites to get acquainted with the existing production intensification methods and pilot demonstration sites established by Mondi and Ilim Group; they also visited Mondi forest nursery to see the pine seedlings and spruce with closed root system. The stakeholders continued the dialog within the framework of the Boreal Forest Platform. Further steps were discussed to promote intensive forestry in Russia; and involvement of further stakeholders and better international representation as the boreal forest problems are not being properly addressed all over the world.

Intensive forestry development recommendations

To WWF Russia:

- Attract more participants from various regions; experts from other boreal countries and take into account the experience of other pilot forest regions, companies and sites located in Russia.
- Further collect, classify and disseminate the practical intensive forestry experience in Russia in view of the fact that there are still no production experiments supported by economic considerations. It is important to follow the experience of the demonstration sites, always monitor lease areas and the results of the application of the new legal base in the future.
- The information about the pilot sites where IF practices are applied should be published and publicly available to efficiently monitor the forest formation dynamics in such sites in the future. To set up a database to select the required forest management activities for particular stands and forest management conditions.

To the companies, Boreal Forest Platform participants:

- Discuss the program of training intensive forestry experts. The training should place a special emphasis not on the quantity, but the quality of their forest operations.



- The implementation of IF methods shall be based on the detailed information about the wood stands and forest vegetation conditions, including the information about the soils and landscape specifics.
- The decisions concerning the implementation of various intensive methods shall be based on the information about the forest condition in the lease areas. The enterprises shall analyze their forest condition within their lease areas provided that FFA (Rosleskhoz) and regional forest management bodies fail to provide the exact forest inventory data.

To the Ministry of Nature of the Russian Federation and Rosleskhoz:

- It is necessary to stop the practice of inadequate planning, reforestation, and approval of plans that do not address the local conditions and the needs of the companies.
- The necessary to shift from "consumer management" to "proper forest management" to determine what forest it is expedient to form in the future. To change priorities and indicators from quantitative to qualitative, from volumes of harvested wood to the areas of properly managed forests.
- Reliable and relevant information about the state of the forest fund is required that will also help to solve the problem of inconsistency between declarative and factual information during the planning and logging phases.
- When developing IF approaches it is advisable to consider the natural dynamics of forest ecosystems at the landscape level that will reduce risks of biodiversity loss.

To Forest Stewardship Council (FSC Russia):

- To assess the extent to which the new standard under development is compatible with the tasks on forestry intensification in Russia. The new FSC standard should take into account the IF approaches and the practices being implemented and relevant norms. Currently, the provisions of the existing FSC standard for Russia can be interpreted so that any intensive forest management can be considered as the conversion of natural forests to forest plantations and thus cannot be compatible with the FSC certification.

The nearest objectives of the Boreal Forest Platform

- December 2015 - to hold a meeting dedicated to a joint discussion of the draft regulations for use and reproduction of forests in Dvina-Vychegda forest district, and record the recommendations of the participants in the draft document.
- In May 2016 to hold the next practical workshop on intensive and sustainable forestry (candidate venues - Pskov Oblast / Belarus /Baltic states).