Press release

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International Paper, Rosleskhoz and WWF sum up results of 2015 and discuss plans for 2016

Saint Petersburg – 14 March 2016 — As part of the successful cooperation and partnership between businesses, authorities and NGOs, representatives from International Paper, Rosleskhoz and WWF Russia met to discuss the results of joint projects implemented in 2015 and their plans for 2016.

Projects implemented in 2015

Biodiversity protection project in the Leningrad region
This project, launched in collaboration between International Paper, WWF and other industry stakeholders, is aimed at maintaining a healthy ecosystem in the interest of environment and society. It involves preserving key environmental elements in logging areas, which is essential to maintain rare flora and fauna species.

Working group lead by the Timber Industry Union in the Leningrad region
This working group was created in order to propose changes in legislature which could enable a smooth and efficient transition to sustainable forestry model principles in the region. It comprises representatives from International Paper among other companies and the Saint Petersburg Forestry Research Institute.

Field seminars and roundtables
In order to inform the public and the industry players in particular, educational seminars were held. This format makes it possible to engage all stakeholders’ group into practical discussion directly in the forest areas. These events also represent an educational aspect as they promote best practice among the industry players. In 2015, International Paper continued to implement its strategy and contributed to a number of seminars.

In particular, the company co-organized the first International FSC Business Forum in Russia and the CIS together with Tetra Pak. The Forum was attended by more than 80 participants who discussed the importance and benefits of a sustainable business model, as well as the benefits FSC provides for the economy, environment and society.
Furthermore, a nation-wide practical workshop dedicated to the use of the forest as an investment was held as part of the XVII St. Petersburg International Forestry Forum. Over 50 workshop participants continued the discussion of the specifics of the sustainable forestry model and its benefits in Russia at the conference on Implementing SFM. The event was supported by the Forest Department in the North-West Federal District. The workshop was attended by heads of forestry departments of a number of federal districts, as well as representatives of Rosleskhoz and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

As part of a joint project aimed at protecting biodiversity in the Leningrad region, three field seminars were held with participation from timber procurers, representatives of forestrìes, the Leningrad region Natural Resources Committee and environmental organizations (WWF and Green Forest).

In addition, in December 2015 a roundtable was held at the Forest Department in the North-West Federal District. The meeting was attended by Alexey Eglit, head of the Forest Department in the North-West Federal District, Igor Kupriyanov, head of Forest Planning Department and Forest Management Regulations at the Leningrad region Natural Resources Committee, representatives of forest management authorities from the Novgorod and Pskov regions (remotely), as well as representatives of International Paper, WWF and tenants (IKEA Industry Tikhvin, Metsya Forest Podporozhye, Stora Enso).

**Plans for 2016**
Following discussion of the 2015 results, the parties agreed to continue implementation of joint initiatives to promote sustainable forestry principles. In particular, in 2016 the parties will carry out the ongoing implementation of a biodiversity protection project in the Leningrad region, amendments to forest management regulations of local forestrìes, as well as preparation of field guides for the identification and protection of key biodiversity elements during logging.

Discussion of regional forestry guidelines will also continue throughout 2016. Field operations of the Saint-Petersburg Forestry Research Institute in the Leningrad and Vologda regions are scheduled as part of efforts aimed at the implementation of the Intensification of the Forest Use and Reproduction Concept. The results of these activities will form the basis for regional forestry standards in line with SFM. International Paper together with other stakeholders is an active part of this process.

**Alexey Eglit, head of the Forest Department in the North-West Federal District, commented:**
“Sustainable forest management requires the participation of all stakeholders. Such projects are important as the role of public controls and quality of forest operations increase.”

**Nikolay Shmatkov, head of the WWF Russia's Forest program, commented:**
“It is crucial that there is cooperation between responsible forest users, non-governmental organizations and forest management authorities. The region’s forestry sector will clearly benefit from dialog at the forestry sites.”

**Fedor Grabar, Forest Department Director at International Paper Russia, commented:**
“In order to improve the efficiency of the forestry sector, targeted activities at every stage of forest planning and utilization are essential. Business is interested in the harmonious development of the forestry sector for the benefit of both society and the environment.”
About International Paper

International Paper (NYSE: IP) is a global leader in packaging and paper with manufacturing operations in North America, Europe, Latin America, Russia, Asia and North Africa. Its businesses include industrial and consumer packaging along with uncoated papers and pulp. Headquartered in Memphis, Tenn., the Company employs approximately 55,000 people and is strategically located in more than 24 countries serving customers worldwide. International Paper net sales for 2015 were $22 billion. For more information about International Paper, its products and global citizenship efforts, visit internationalpaper.com.

About International Paper Russia

International Paper started its operations in Russia in 1998. The company focuses on the production and marketing of office and offset papers, liquid packaging board and bleached chemical thermo-mechanical pulp with wholly owned manufacturing operations in Svetogorsk. The company’s Russian footprint also includes a 50:50 joint venture with the Ilim Group, the largest integrated paper and pulp manufacturer in Russia. International Paper’s most well-known brands in Russia are Ballet and SvetoCopy.

More news about International Paper in Russia: http://www.internationalpaper.com/Russia/