Press release

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Workshop on transition to sustainable forestry management held in the Leningrad Region for the 5th time

St Petersburg – October 18, 2018 – For more than its 20 years in Russia, International Paper has been promoting the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) to ensure healthy and productive forest ecosystems for generations to come. In September, International Paper together with Forestry Department of the Northwest Federal District, Saint Petersburg Forestry Research Institute, WWF Russia and Forest Industry Union of the Leningrad Region carried out a practical workshop “Transition of forestry plots to sustainable forestry model.” The workshop’s goal was to discuss the actual questions related to the transition to SFM in Russia.

The workshop took place in the Leningrad Region as part of “Efficient forest recovery under SFM, improvement cutting for coppice” conference held during the XX St. Petersburg International Forestry Forum. The event was attended by the representatives of business (Ilim Group, Metsya Forest Podporozhe, Mondi SLPK, Segezha Group), academics (Saint Petersburg Forestry Research Institute), NGOs (WWF Russia, Forest Industry Union of the Leningrad Region), and the government (Forestry Department of the Northwest Federal District, Committee for the Natural Resources in the Leningrad Region). The workshop was moderated by Nikolay Shmatkov from WWF Russia.

The workshop included demonstration of forest plots in the Volosovo District of the Leningrad Region, which are in transition to SFM. The participants studied the difference between old and new regulations for planning the forest recovery and other forest-related events, and discussed the challenging issues and potential solutions to them. Worth noting that in the end of 2017, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia had approved the Forestry Rules, which included SFM regulations for the Leningrad Region, among others.

The discussion continued at the “Efficient forest recovery under SFM, improvement cutting for coppice” conference where the parties discussed the steps necessary for further adoption of the SFM model. The participants highlighted the importance of forest management and road construction. Forest management is carried out by the regional authorities, while the forest industry funds forest management initiatives, which significantly facilitates the process. In
terms of forest roads, the participants noted a need from the regional authorities to support elimination of obstacles to use mineral resources.

Aleksey Eglit, Head of Forestry Department of the Northwest Federal District, said:
“Adoption of the SFM model remains a key task for the North-Western region. Such events as this workshop help all stakeholders discuss the current situation in the forestry region, recent developments and next steps enabling us to significantly advance in the model’s adoption.”

Nikolay Shmatkov, Head of Forest Program at WWF Russia, said:
“It is important that SFM model not only turns forests into efficient forest enterprises but also makes foresters to adopt unconventional and creative solutions. The workshop’s participants noted that different forest plots require entirely different approaches to soil preparation, deadlines and intensity of clarification and cleaning. In order to make competent decisions aimed at achieving strong results, we need to have highly-professional specialists who not only have basic understanding but also are capable of using state-of-the-art techniques and forest recovery methods. Thus, partnerships between forest companies and universities aimed at raising new workers become even more relevant.”

Fedor Grabar, Forest Department Director at International Paper in Russia, noted:
“We would like to thank all participants for a productive discussion. Recent legislative changes are a great opportunity to improve forest management practices. Now, there are ways to advance reforestation, commercial cutting of care and clearcutting. Executing proper forest management and improving forest roads are two important parts of this process. Local authorities execute forest management procedures, sponsored by businesses. Improvement of forest road infrastructure, in turn, is only possible with the support of regional authorities that can lift the restrictions of common minerals use. Seminars and roundtables that are a part of the Federal Agency for Forestry’s roadmap help apply new regulations to increase the effectiveness of the forest industry.”

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is a responsible investor aimed at sustainable forest management, as well as other environmental and social projects benefitting the Russian community.

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