Press release

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Sustainable forestry in the Leningrad region

Moscow – 30 March 2017 – State authorities (the Ministry of Natural Resources, Rosleskhoz), forestry companies (International Paper, Ilim Group, Segezha Group, Sveza-Les), as well as academic circles (the All-Russian Research Institute for Silviculture and Mechanization of Forestry and the St Petersburg Forestry Research Institute) and environmental organizations (WWF) held a meeting dedicated to sustainable forestry and reforestation in Moscow. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, Sergey Donskoy.

The event was yet another step forward in the crucial process of implementing the sustainable forestry and reforestation in Russia - a goal of the country’s 2030 Forestry Policy. This globally recognized model is aimed at achieving a long-term balance among environmental, economic, and social factors.

The Leningrad Region’s agenda
The meeting included a presentation on sustainable forestry efforts in the Leningrad Region – a pilot region for the implementation of a new model. The region was represented by the Natural Resources Committee of the Leningrad region and International Paper Russia. In 2016, the St Petersburg Forestry Research Institute completed field work in the region, with financial support from International Paper, which provided the basis for new forestry regulations. Also in 2016, test events focused on reforestation and improvement cutting based on the new model began on International Paper’s leased plots in Tikhvin, providing an example to future tenants.

Plans for 2017 include the approval of new forestry rules that will update the forestry regulations and forest plan of the Leningrad Region, after which, the region’s tenants will be able to fully transition to the new model.

Further steps
The parties agreed on a schedule for the preparation of rules for all pilot regions in Russia, including the Leningrad Region, and discussed issues requiring support from the federal and regional authorities.
**Stakeholders’ comments**

Evgeny Andreev, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee in the Leningrad Region, said: “Sustainable forestry and reforestation are the main goals of the state forestry policy until 2030. This includes the Leningrad Region, which is a pilot region for the model. We believe that, in order to successfully accomplish this goal, the constructive dialog and aligned efforts of all stakeholders are crucial.”

Fedor Grabar, Forest Department Director at International Paper Russia, commented: “Changing the approach to forest management is an important task for the forestry sector in the Leningrad Region. Due to inefficient forestry, we see deterioration in the forests’ quality and lower production volumes. The situation should be changed gradually and only through joint effort, a fact confirmed by this meeting where we discussed and approved an action plan.”

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**About International Paper**

International Paper (NYSE: IP) is a leading global producer of renewable fiber-based packaging, pulp and paper products with manufacturing operations in North America, Latin America, Europe, North Africa, Asia and Russia. We produce packaging products that protect and promote goods, and enable world-wide commerce; pulp for diapers, tissue and other personal hygiene products that promote health and wellness; papers that facilitate education and communication; and paper bags, cups and food containers that provide convenience and portability. We are headquartered in Memphis, Tenn., and employ approximately 55,000 colleagues located in more than 24 countries. Net sales for 2016 were $21 billion. For more information about International Paper, our products and global citizenship efforts, please 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 at its Svetogorsk mill, which in 2017 celebrates the 130th anniversary of its launch. 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. International Paper is a responsible investor focused on sustainable forest management, as well as other environmental and social projects benefitting the Russian community.

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