News Release

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Workshop dedicated to implementing the Sustainable Forestry Model takes place in Leningrad region

1 October 2015, St. Petersburg – A nation-wide practical workshop under the title “Paradigm shift in forestry – the forest as an investment” was held as part of the XVII St. Petersburg International Forestry Forum. The workshop at Podporozhye forestry complex included a visit to land plots leased by Metsya Forest Podporozhye, and was attended by over 50 participants. The event was organized by Metsya Forest Podporozhye, International Paper Russia, the Leningrad region’s Timber Industry and Forest Exporters’ Union, and the WWF.

The workshop focused on reviewing key issues and practical solutions for the implementation of the sustainable forestry model (SFM) in Russia. Event participants, including representatives of Russia’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Federal Forestry Agency (Rosleskhoz) departments from a number of Russian regions, the St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute, and NGOs, came together to discuss the tools needed to implement SFM in Russia. In particular, the parties discussed the Concept outlining the intensification of forest use and recovery, and suggested ways to improve it. The event organizers shared the examples of SFM best practice and described the model’s benefits for the environment and society, and its impact on the forests of the future.

Fedor Grabar, Forest Department Director at International Paper in Russia, said: “The workshop in Podporozhye was yet another step toward the implementation of the sustainable forestry model. Improving efficiency requires a comprehensive approach and meaningful dialogue between business, the academic community and government stakeholders. Changes in legislature are vital, as are sources of up-to-date information about forests, roads construction and the fight against illegal logging. Other important measures include adopting new equipment and personnel training sessions. The workshop was a valuable and highly efficient platform for all involved parties to discuss these and other issues.”

Workshop participants continued the discussion at the conference on Implementing SFM that concluded the XVII St. Petersburg International Forestry Forum.

About International Paper

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