

**The Role of Forest Ecosystem Services in Tackling the Issues Related  
to Climate Change  
(4 November 2015, Engelberg)**

The contribution of forests to the ecological stability of the Earth biosphere is significant and diverse, it includes ecosystem services such as biodiversity conservation, maintenance of a favourable water regime, soil protection, the atmosphere stabilization and climate regulation, as well as ensuring the healthy environment for people.

At the New York summit on global agenda for the period after 2015, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and Minister of foreign affairs Sergey Lavrov highlighted the important role of Russian boreal forests that sequestrate up to 600 million tons of carbon per year. This meaningful fact should be considered during the preparations for the Paris Conference on climate.

The above mentioned facts about the forests of Russia are true with respect to the forest cover of the planet as well, which is 1/3 of the land surface. The potential of forests has been used by the mankind not to full extent.

Thus we consider it important to pay special attention to capacity building and prompt actions on the track of the UN FF. It may be a good idea to create a UN centre on forest protection and renovation as a global tool to mitigate the climate change consequences and promote the Sustainable Forest Management.

Following the decisions of the UN General Assembly and UNFF, the ecosystem services may receive no less significance than forest genetic resources, non-wood forest products and role of forests for society.

It is worth mentioning that in some countries, the wood-processing technologies based on the eco-friendly materials include the comprehensive use of forest resources and human capacity-building.

In this regard, it is important to support research and the subsequent development of new markets for ecosystem services, especially in the boreal zone, as well as the markets of new forest materials and products on their base. We believe that the international arrangement on forests, which are already established in the framework of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may be quite prospective. These arrangements may consolidate the "architecture" of the international cooperation in the field of sustainable use of forests, and most importantly - the boreal forests.

In order to minimize the negative consequences of climate change, the relevant decisions should be taken. The decisions which will allow forests and forest sector to adapt to the changes in climate and stay corresponding to the social demand in goods and services.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the last year research - 'Forests of the UNECE region: trends and prospects in achieving the global goals'. I would like to thank the coordinators and experts who were taking part in this work. We hope, that the issue of forest ecosystem services will be further considered by the Joint UNECE/FAO section, and this work will lead to the strategic decisions in forest management.

Active state policy in evaluation and promotion of forest ecosystem input in tackling the global problems of the society is a necessary element of the joint work programme in the UNECE region. From our side, the Russian Federation confirm its interest in the regional work on the best methods of ecosystem services' market formation. Institutionalization of this issue is one of the basic targets of the Russian strategy in the sphere of sustainable development of the forest sector.

Joint efforts of the countries and large long-term measures are necessary for solving the climate-related issues. We should consider the different sides of social sphere and national economies. For this goal, the regional initiative of the UNECE

about the implementation of Rovaniemi action plan is of particular importance. The Rovaniemi action plan has become common guidelines for the UNECE states in their work on creating by 2020 the model of sustainable forest management in the region, which is sound from the economic point of view. We will have an opportunity to discuss the issue of Rovaniemi action plan tomorrow. документом

We should learn to live in harmony with the nature and environment, use the forest resources in the best way and minimize the negative consequences of anthropogenic activities. I am confident, that this is the very way to ensure sustainable management of the global forests, and to ensure safe development of the global society.