

RESOLUTION

of the

Regional Forest Congress «Forest Policy: Problems and Solutions»

Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek,

25-27 November, 2004 r.

Countries of the post-Soviet area have common historical, cultural and economic routes predetermining their regional cooperation. Nevertheless, their ecological interrelation is more important for their cooperation, not depending on political or economic direction of countries. The nature predetermined common inhabitation of these countries at common ecosystems and following from such common inhabitation - their mutual dependence on forests, water, energy, transport, tourism and many other issues.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) conducted in Johannesburg and the EU Ministerial Conference in Kiev (2003), within the Global Development Program framework (Agenda-21), Governments of Central Asian countries, Russian Federation and Ukraine identified common targets and responsibilities. International organizations and developed countries also took obligations on supporting the efforts (programs and projects) to achieve such goals. Experience of the new independent states, accumulated since more than ten years, proved that fragmented efforts of specific sectors, countries or international organizations do not bring to expected results and do not solve serious problems of environment and regional development. A clear example of this is destroyed ecosystem of the Aral Sea, degradation of mountain ecosystems, reduction of fertility of land areas, irrational water usage, reduction of forest area and etc.

We, participants of the Regional Forest Congress, representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, international, non-government organizations and private sector, having discussed key issues of forest management and sustainable forest usage:

- state high vulnerability of ecosystems from first of all antropogenic impact and irrational utilization of natural resources;
- welcome and support global and regional partnership initiatives, such as International partnership on sustainable development of mountain territories, partnership "East-West" on Ecological Strategy of countries from East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and development of the Central Asian initiative on sustainable development declared at World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- underline importance of involvement on the acting in the region organizations, programs and projects in the area of protection of environment and their further development on principles of integrated management, ecosystem and intersectoral approaches, here it is necessary to insist on priority of solving issues on protection and rehabilitation of forests;

- note that in countries and regions measures and actions have been taken on implementation of forest policy involving cooperation between the different stakeholder sectors of society;
- note that the status of forests in the region is of big concern due to a low percentage of forest land, weak natural renewal and insufficient funding;
- note, at present time potential of public organizations, local communities and educational institutions at the programs implemented is not used full enough. Nevertheless, solution of environmental problems is not possible without partnership. A partnership in the sense is a new type of relationship between state, public, international organizations, local community and business;
- underline the necessity of important changes in the role of state, and therefore of top-priority structural and political reforms, based on the generally accepted principles and criteria, adapted to the concrete situation in the each country.

We consider necessary:

- To promote forestation increase of territories by implementation of projects on planting seedlings and implementation of programs on reduction of desertification and deforestation and guarantee there full scale of nature protection regime;
- To ensure increase of percentage of protected natural territories up an optimal level for preservation of a biological diversity in accordance with international commitments;
- To merge efforts, directed at inter-national, inter-regional, inter-agency and inter-sectoral cooperation within the frame of improvement of ecological policy and by-laws in the area of environment protection, efficient use of nature and sustainable development as at national, as well as at international levels;
- To attract attention of governments of the countries from the region, as well of publicity to the development and consequent implementation of the forest policy;
- Facilitate improvement of coordination, collection and exchange of information and partnership, using existing information networks (Econet, CARNET);
- To facilitate the obligatory inclusion of social-economic aspects into the plans of the forest sector management;
- To develop and implement regional projects, aimed at cooperation in the area of sustainable development of forest sector in the region;
- To search for adequate funding of the forest programs' actions on monitoring and evaluation of the impact of implementation of the decisions taken;
- To join the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR), Global Wildland Fire Network, and support the development of an international accord on cooperation in wildland fire management;

- To undertake political, institutional and legal reforms leading to the sustainable management of forests, and forestry arrangements, supporting involvement of the local population and private sector;
- To turn with proposal donor-countries, EEC, to international organizations: NFG, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WWF, GEF on provision of financial, technical and consultative support for issues of sustainable management over forest sector of the region;
- To generate environment for local population to increase their awareness, and ensure participation in decision making;
- To undertake regularly exchange of information on the forest policy.

We support the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic State Forest Service on undertaking the Regional Forest Congress. Within broadening the international cooperation to achieve Goals of Millennium Development, and also in view of bilateral and multilateral agreements, we consider useful to conduct periodically (once in two years) the Regional Forest Congress, using the principle of rotation for selection of hosting country.

We express sincere gratitude for support of the initiative on undertaking the First Regional Forest Congress to the SDC, Intercooperation in Kyrgyzstan, Norway Forest Group (NFG), UNFAO, OSCE, European Union, Europeaid, GEF, World Bank, GTZ, JUMP.