

ROUND TABLE ON TIEN-SHAN FOREST PROBLEMS

A Round Table has been held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) June 13, funded by Ebert Fund. There were about 30 participants from NGOs, academic institutions and the forest department (formerly part of Ecology Ministry). The key reporter was Mrs V.Surappaeva, who is the department official. She gave brief information on ENA-ELEG process, passed conferences and about Kyrgyz Cabinet of Ministers Resolution - Concept of Forest Development till 2015, which is policy goal, but not yet adopted by Parliament.

There were active information sharing (and discussion) during that Round Table with participation of vice-chairman of Swiss Forest Programme (SFP) in Kyrgyzstan A.Temirbekov Chairman of Community Association of Kyrgyzstan N.Japarov, Chairman of NGO Root and Ground, A.Beknazarova, and others.

The Communities Association Chairman Japarov expressed surprise at information about the consultation with communities and aborigines held this year (as it informed by Forest Department with "NGO Independent Eco Expertise"). The Association members (about 500 rural communities) have never heard about it. Additionally, he asked to spread resolutions and other documents in local languages (Kyrgyz and Uzbek) for understanding by local people. Several participants said that they ascertain an absence of real public participation in forest justice process and law preparation (several Laws, and Correctives to Laws are awaiting adoption).

Temirbekov provided information about completed 5 year pilot program of the SFP: non paid agenda of forest area (for five years) with thrifty using and preservation (second goal of program was poverty alleviation). Draft report revision is positive. He regretted that SFP can not fund Kyrgyzstan space-photo [satellite] with wide scale for good forest control.

Several participants complain on steadfast illegal forest timber in Issyk-Kul region.

Unfortunately, this process was organized by former Gubernator [Governor] of the region during two years, but the process have been prolonged till now with new governance. As it assessed by participants: volume of illegal felling is equal or more compare with legal one. Hadjamberdiev distributed information and scenario on Pamir-Tien-Shan Alpine (boreal) forest problems. These issues still exist and strengthen in nearest future, they are supposed to worst forests situation after new road Almaty-Issik-Kul, new gold mining, railway Europe-China, etc.

All participants express support of Saint-Petersburg Declaration, and promised keep try to implement it into regions.

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