Preparation of articles on the best forest management practices in Belarus for the Ustoichivoye Lesopolzovaniye (Sustainable Forestry) Magazine

1. Background

The “Programme II for Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in the European Neighborhood Policy Countries and Russia” (hereinafter, the Project) is a project being implemented by the World Wildlife Fund as part of the “Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the ENPI East Countries-2” Program, and in partnership with the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The Programme participants are seven countries in Europe and North Asia – six European Neighborhood Policy countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova) and the Russian Federation.

Both the project and the program ultimately target putting in place the enhanced forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in St. Petersburg Ministerial Declaration and in Indicative Plan of Actions for the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA FLEG).

The Program has three specific Objectives listed below:

1) To make progress implementing the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration in the participating countries and support the participating countries commit to a time-bound action plan to ensure its implementation and follow-up activities (regional level);
2) To review or revise (or establish a time-bound action plan to review or revise) forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance (including the impact of related EU regulations) in the participating countries (national level);
3) To test and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and the feasibility of improved forest governance practices at the field-level on a pilot basis in all participating countries (sub-national level).

This assignment provides an input into Goal 3 and position 4.3.2 of the Work Plan for implementation of the Program in the Republic of Belarus.

2. Purpose

The services target the provision of support aiming to ensure the legality and sustainability of forest management practices through increasing of awareness and capacity building, which, in turn, is in line with the purpose of the “Programme II for Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in the European
Neighborhood Policy Countries and Russia”, a project being implemented by the World Wide Fund For Nature.

3. Scope of Services
3.1. Prepare 2 popular science articles on the best forest management practices in Belarus, for publication in “Ustoychivoye Lesopolzovanie” (“Sustainable Forestry”) http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/magazines/forest_mag, and specifically focusing on:

- New Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus – new trends in the forest management;
- New view on categorizing of the Belarusian forests. Influence of economic, environmental and social factors.

It is necessary to reflect in the articles connection with ENPI FLEG II Program on the issues of formation new trends in forest management and creation of new legislative instruments. Articles shouldn't be as just retelling of new normative legal acts. A detailed analysis of the reasons and factors which led to reform of the legislation and practice of forest management in the Republic of Belarus has to be provided in the articles.

The articles can be prepared either by the Consultant independently or jointly with other authors. All copyright issues and responsibility before third parties will be the responsibility of the Consultant. All rights relating to the articles and illustrations provided by the Consultant to the Client as part of these Terms of Reference, will be the owned by the Client.

4. Reporting and Approval Procedures
4.1. Upon signing of the contract, the Consultant shall provide the Client with the outcomes according to a 2-step timeline (one article per step). Articles will be presented in MS Word according to the following timeline:

Article 1 (New Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus – new trends in the forest management) - within 15 days after signing of the contract;
Article 2 (New view on categorizing of the Belarusian forests. Influence of economic, environmental and social factors) - within 30 days after signing of the contract;
Both articles should reply to critical comments recently voiced by Belarus and Russian NGOs against the new Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus.
4.2. The articles should strictly observe the Ustoichivoye Lesopolzovanie editor’s requirements. The target audience of the periodical includes readers with expert knowledge and staff of forest management bodies, private forestry companies, nongovernmental organizations, forestry colleges and research institutions. The articles should not sound purely academic or too much research-focused, and neither should they be too much specialized or have too many formulas.

The articles should be reviewed by representatives of WWF and the Ministry of Forestry of Belarus and all comments should be cleared by the author. The articles should have a proper reference to the ENPI FLEG 2 Program.

4.3. Each article must contain the list of references according to GOST 7.1.84; the intertextual references should be designated as square bracketed numbers, whereas Internet links should be presented as footnotes. The references to illustrations (figures, tables, photos) will be designated as numbers. The articles shall be written in Russian language.

4.4. The articles should 10 to 15 pages maximum and have the format of MS Word, Times New Roman 12, space 1.5, page margins standard (for text). The articles have to be original, not published before.

4.5. The articles should contain full-color photos depicting the state of forestry in Belarus. All illustrations (figures, tables, photos) will be provided as separate files. They should contain short captions and references to authors of the photos (first and last names). Photo resolution: 300 dpi minimum.

4.6. The possible findings that may be found by the editorial staff when reviewing the articles will be closed by the Consultant within 2 weeks time.

4.7. The articles will be reviewed for style and literary correctness by the staff of the Ustoichivoye Lesopolzovanie. The final version of the articles will be agreed with the Consultant.

The Consultant must send the electronic versions of the articles and illustrations to Nikolay Smatkov nshmatkov@wwf.ru.

5. Client’s Input

The Consultant will perform these Terms of Reference using its own resources and equipment.
6. Qualification Requirements
The Consultant has to know Russian, have profile forest or classical scholar higher education.

The Consultant should have the experience of writing forestry-related articles that meet the above qualifications and have the knowledge of the forest management sector of Belarus on a profile of the main work (government forest management bodies, scientific or educational organizations, public organizations, mass media). The Consultant must provide the minimum of 5 own articles published during 2010-2015 as evidence of the experience meeting these qualification requirements.