INTERIM REPORT
ON
“SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MECHANISM TO CONTROL LOGGED WOOD TRANSPORTATION IN UKRAINE”

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September 2016

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction to mechanisms of involving the public to monitoring of timber tracking in the selected EU countries and possibility of their implementation under the conditions of Ukrainian forestry sector .................................................................3
2. Consultations with stakeholders ..................................................................................4
2.1. Consultations with the Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center.........................4
2.1. Discussion of the draft Concept with representatives of public authorities and other stakeholders ......................................................................................................................................................5
3. Draft of the Concept of public control over logged wood transportation in Ukraine ......5
1. **Introduction to Mechanisms of Involving the Public to Monitoring of Timber Tracking in the Selected EU Countries and Possibility of Their Implementation Under the Conditions of Ukrainian Forestry Sector**

In the course of fulfilling this assignment, materials of project assignment of FLEG II program “Improvement of timber flow control system in Ukraine and preparations of final proposals for changes in the national legislation” were considered, particularly concerning foreign experience in setting up foreign timber track and trace systems: [http://www.enpi-fleg.org/docs/international-experience-in-development-of-timber-tracking-systems/](http://www.enpi-fleg.org/docs/international-experience-in-development-of-timber-tracking-systems/)

The analyzed timber track and trace systems were conditionally divided into voluntary and mandatory ones. Introduction of voluntary systems is linked with the aim of large timber companies to ensure increasing economic efficiency, expansion of information support for the management decisions support systems, increase transparency of their activity. In countries where the majority of forests are state owned, introduction of the systems is aimed at improving and strengthening accounting of forest resources, combating illegal logging and preventing ingress of shady timber into supply chains.

As it turned out, in a great variety of timber track and trace systems, only integrated information system SUMAL in Romania has an element of public participation in monitoring the transportation of untreated timber. There is a possibility for any citizen to call an emergencies number 112 and by the state registration number of the car that transports timber to learn about legality of raw materials origin. Therefore, every carrier is obliged to provide information on the cargo (detailed) to the system server before starting any movement of the cargo to its destination.

Given the increase in the civic engagement in the country and low confidence in the forestry sector in society – it is reasonable to use Romanian experience of SUMAL system implementation in terms of timber online registration service at loading and its control during shipment.
2. CONSULTATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

2.1. Consultations with the Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center

With a view to the possible involvement of the existing the unified state system of electronic accounting of wood (USSEAW) instruments to the public timber tracking and tracing system, on 14.07.2016, there was a consultation with the management of Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center (FIAC) during which the main tasks to be solved within the project assignment of creating tools of public control over logged wood transportation and possible participation of the SE “FIAC” were discussed.

Director of FIAC has told about a test version of software designed for law enforcement agencies to track the timber origin. It allows searching for information both by the tag number and by vehicle number. The possibility of creating control points of wood transportation by community activists was discussed. From the point of view of SE FIAC, there are various options for implementing public control over wood transportation. The first one involves creation of a database of vehicles that have been registered in the USSEAW system and its further use. The second requires creation of a free service with a separate base of waybills for all carriers, where a number of a vehicle, a scanned copy of a waybill, volume and commodity structure of the transported products should be available. It should be possible to register new carriers which perform transportation of roundwood outside the system "perpetual forest user – buyer" (it may include bucked wood in the system "seller – processor"). The director noted that the above software may be used in various public control projects, including FLEG II. This approach will facilitate further integration of all existing electronic databases and services that are relevant to the forestry with the USSEAW system.

It was emphasized that FIAC is ready to provide its software and hardware for the purpose of project tasks free of charge, and delegates Sotnyk Yuriy Petrovych and the developer of the above software to work on this project.

The results of consultations with the management of the State Enterprise FIAC are as follows:

- Management of SE FIAC is ready to provide software for wood transportation control and will actively participate in the project objectives implementation;
- Registration of forest users in the system for public control over wood transportation, entering and viewing information should be free of charge;
- Basic information about the products has to be registered in the system;
- The above software may be used in various public control projects, including FLEG II.
2.1. Discussion of the draft Concept with representatives of public authorities and other stakeholders

The draft Concept of public control over the transportation of timber harvested in Ukraine has been actively discussed on September 29, 2016, in Kyiv, during the XV International Exhibition "LISDEREVMASH".

During the discussion participant were trying to answer the questions about how it could be ensured the integrity of data and prevention of their modification, how to record the place and time of the vehicle departure. Other topics were also discussed such as: improving performance discipline and accounting of forest resources, methods to attract the public to control the movement of harvested timber, how to take into account the human factor, and alternative ways of engaging the public to monitoring the shipment of wood harvested in Ukraine. The proposals also included the usage of the FIAC results to control the transportation of harvested timber and to improve the electronic records of wood with the joint efforts.

However, all speakers emphasized that the development and implementation of such an advanced control system cannot be discussed separately from other instruments and devices to prevent illegal logging, such as from raising awareness and responsibility of citizens and strengthening general state law enforcement practices.

Workshop participants supported in general further development of proposals to engage public in control over the transportation of harvested timber highlighted in the Concept.

3. DRAFT OF THE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC CONTROL OVER LOGGED WOOD TRANSPORTATION IN UKRAINE

Within the implementation of project assignment, a Concept of public control over logged wood transportation in Ukraine which provides for the expansion of tools on public access to information about forests and forestry, prevention of violations of forestry related legislation and combating shadow timber turnover in Ukraine was drafted.

The current timber tracking system cannot effectively ensure public control as a result of a number of legal, organizational and technological aspects of its operation. In particular, public has no right to stop a vehicle to check the availability of tags and their registration in the USSEAW system. Checking of tags for every log in the USSEAW system is time-consuming. Lack of uniform requirements for entering information about timber into the USSEAW system (including timing of data entry) entails a possibility of transportation of timber without its pre-registration in the system. The possibility of modification of the information already entered in the system should not be ruled out.
The approach defined in the Concept allows us to fully or partially eliminate the revealed shortcomings and offers simple means of public control over legality of timber origin during its transportation.

The aim of the Concept is to define the principles of transparent forest management and to create conditions for objective confirmation of legality of timber origin in accordance with Article 294 of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On peculiarities of state regulation of business entities related to the sales and export of timber".

The main principles of the Concept are:
- Openness of data on logging and transportation of logged wood;
- Transparency and openness in the coverage of forestry branch;
- Commonality of approaches to obtaining information on logged wood;
- Focus on interests and needs of communities;
- Protocling of all data transactions;
- Ensuring confidentiality of information storage and impossibility of its modification.

The tasks of the Concept of public control over logged wood transportation in Ukraine are as follows:
- Ensure the right of citizens to access information about forests and forestry;
- Public involvement in forest management;
- Diversification of instruments of control over activities of executive authority by civil society;
- Improvement of management technology and quality of management solutions in forestry;
- Expansion of public access to information resources on forests and forestry;
- Raising public awareness on the use of information and communication technologies in forestry.

Tasks of the Concept are to be implemented by means of:
- Creation of an independent information retrieval system on the transportation of logged wood;
- Development of database structure and algorithms for the synchronization of information with existing systems of logged wood transportation control in Ukraine (USSEAW etc.);
- Creation of flexible tools for public retrieval of information on transportation of logged wood, such as mobile applications, web services and integration with the existing call centers;
● Development of instructions for using the tools of information retrieval system on the transportation of logged wood;
● Identification and training of persons responsible for supporting information retrieval system on transportation of logged wood;
● Public involvement to use of the tools developed;
● Integration of official website of the State Forest Resource Agency of Ukraine with objective tools for control over transportation of logged wood.

The information retrieval system for control over logged wood transportation requires constant synchronization with the existing systems for control over logged wood transportation. In turn, the data is collected in a separate database and all changes are made as separate records, while removal of already synchronized entries is impossible. To ensure public control during transportation of logged timber, it is planned to create a hotline, individual services and applications for mobile devices based on the information retrieval system for control over logged wood transportation that allow receiving information about wood transported using a registration number of a vehicle, tag number and waybill number (fig.1).

Fig.1. Timber transportation public control concept
The Concept is expected to be implemented within two stages.

**The first stage includes:**
- Study of European and national experience in the functioning of logged wood transportation control systems;
- Creation of a centralized database;
- Establishing information retrieval system;
- Integration of the information retrieval system with the existing systems;
- Development of additional services and applications;
- Development of detailed instructions on the system use.

**The second stage will include testing of the developed tools and teaching the public about their use.**

The expected results from the Concept implementation:
- Ensure high availability of information on wood logging and transportation to the public;
- Increase transparency and openness of the forest sector;
- Improve implementation discipline and accounting of forest resources;
- Public involvement in control of logged wood transportation;
- Confirmation of wood origin legality through the use of objective, independent and transparent information tools and services;
- Prevent formation of illegal wood and its turnover in the market.
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The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Program supports participating countries’ forest governance. At the regional level, the Program aims to implement the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration and support countries to commit to a time-bound action plan; at the national level the Program will review or revise forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; and improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance in the participating countries, and at the sub-national (local) level the Program will 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. Participating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. The Program is funded by the European Union.

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