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Report
on Results of the Seminar on Discussion of the Implementation Plan
of the Forest Protection and Reforestation Project

The seminar was held on 2nd of September 2005 in Semipalatinsk in the congress-hall of the city akimat. Around 30 participants took part in the seminar, including representatives of the regional working group, staff of local executive agencies, independent experts for environmental and radiation assessment, forest fire protection, representatives of NGOs. The moderator of seminar was Kairat Ustemirov, head of FHC sub-department.

The seminar was organized as follows: in the first half reports were presented by representatives of the Committee for Forestry and Hunting, deputy Akim of Semipalatinsk, chairman of local parliament (maslikhat) of Semipalatinsk, project coordinator, World Bank expert, expert for radiation monitoring and expert for forest fire protection, and also by the head of NGO "Istok".

Special interest was given to the presentation for radiation monitoring and the scheme of limiting of access to natural resource use in forestry. In particular, all the participants of seminar expressed their opinion that it is necessary to continue the work on radiation monitoring. It was pointed out that this study has to be completed as soon as possible as there is risk pending for the health of people working on the project territory, including university and school students.

The representative of NGO "Istok" in his presentation reported that her organization had won a Japanese grant "Grass root" for pilot works in reforestation, in particular within this mini-project they are constructing a small greenhouse for growing pine seedlings with the containers system.

Overall, the reports presented on the seminar were agreed with by the participants.

During the second half of the day a free discussion was held. During this discussion the participants of the seminar raised the following questions, requests and comments:

- Participants were interested to know how regional coordination unit will be formed and what would be criteria for candidates selection. Kairat Ustemirov mentioned that selection will be made in accordance with the Consultancy Procurement Guidelines basing on recommendations made by regional stakeholders. Also, it was mentioned that regional coordinator will be a full time job position and FHC would require that the regional coordinator is not engaged in other non project activities.
- Workshop participants actively discussed co-management concept that is going to be piloted in some project areas. Borovkov expressed openness of forest authorities in testing innovative forest management approaches. Although it was admitted that at the moment there is no clear strategy of moving forward in implementing this concept, it was understood that during project implementation there will be training activities and learning of other countries' experience that will help to formulate concrete steps in piloting co-management.
- Some questions arose around Access Restriction Framework. Janna stressed that ARF is not about restricting access to project activities but to forest utilization in project areas.
- Workshop participants expressed support for the framework and welcomed compensatory mechanisms like possible credit line, competitive grant program, feasibility study for use of forest products.
- Radiation Risk Assessment. Mr. Strilchuk (specialist in the sphere of radiation risk assessment from the National Nuclear Center) in his presentation admitted that in spite of encouraging results that were obtained out of desk search, lack of reliable field data is not permitting him to guarantee 100% safeness of work to be made in the project area. Some additional research should be made and it is very important to correctly select sites for sample testing. Talimjan Urazov

explained workshop participants that Bank management and task team share this concern and additional study is made as a condition for the full scale project activities to start in the Irtysh pine forests. He also informed that the Bank asked IAEA to explore the possibility of participation in this field study. Mr. Strilchuk however warned participants to avoid radiophobia and explained that in his experience danger of radioactive contamination in Semey region is overestimated and it is highly likely that radioactivity level in most project areas is within norms.

Generally, the seminar was efficient, all the participants supported the importance and necessity of activities of the component “Irtish Pine Forest” of the project. It is worth mentioning the high level of awareness of the members of the working group on the project preparation progress and details of its components.

Additionally, during the seminar the members of working group agreed from their side to inform local population of the project territory about goals and tasks of the project and planned timeframe of its implementation.

Project Coordinator,

Zh. Muratbekov

WORKSHOP AGENDA
on Presentation of
the Forest Protection and Reforestation Project

24th September 2005 Almaty

9.00	Registration of the participants
9.30	Opening, welcome note - Chairman of the Forestry and Hunting Committee, Mr. E. Kelemseit
9.40	Welcome note, requirements of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for implementation of the Forest Protection and Reforestation Project - Project Manager, the IBRD, Ms. Jessica Mott
9.55	The Forest Protection and Reforestation Project: components, technical parameters, current situation and further implementation steps - Project Coordinator, Mr. Zh.B.Muratbekov
10.25	Environmental Assessment of the Project – Expert for Environmental Protection, Mr. K. Nurymgereev
10.40	Social Assessment of the project – Expert on sociological researches Ms. Nataliya Kabanova
10.50	Coffee-Break
11.15	Radiation Risk Assessment in Near-Irtysh river region - Expert for Radiation Risk Assessment, Mr. Yurij Strilchuk.
11.30	Improvement of Saxaul Rangeland Management System in Kyzylorda oblast – Pastoral Management Expert, Mr. Sh. Kussayev
11. 40	Mapping under the project – Head of Division for Forest and EPNA of the FHC, Mr. Kairat Ustemirov
11.50	Discussion of the Project – comments and proposals
12.50	Wrapping-up of results of the seminar, closing note - Chairman of the Forestry and Hunting Committee, Mr. E.A. Kelemseit
13.00	Lunch

The Forestry and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Forest Protection and Reforestation Project
Grant TF051351 for project preparation
Project Implementation Plan Discussion Workshop

Semipalatinsk city, September 2 2005

List of Participants

1.	**Mr. T. Musapirbekov**	Deputy Akim of Semipalatinsk city
2.	**Mr. Kairat Ustemirov**	Head of Division for Forest and EPNA of the FHC
3.	**Mr. J. Sadvakassova**	Chief Specialist of Section for Agriculture and Land
4.	**Mr. A.Borovkov**	Deputy Director General, "Semey Ormany" SFNR
5.	**Ms. Gulmira Beketova**	Coordinator, "IRIS" Social Community
6.	**Ms. V. Shakhova**	Director, Semipalatinsk Zonal Forest Station
7.	**Mr. A. Ivanov**	Specialist of Semipalatinsk Zonal Forest Station
8.	**Ms. S. Aubakirova**	"BIRLIK" Initiative group
9.	Mr. V. Arkhipov	Fire management expert
10.	**Mr. A. Nagimtapov**	"REFORMA"Social Fund
11.	**Mr. A. Safiolin**	Head of Section for Reforestation, "Semey Ormany" SFNR
12.	**Ms. T. Ramazanova**	Kanonerskij Affiliate of "Semey Ormany" SFNR
13.	**Mr. T. Gallyamov**	Director, Semipalatinskij Affiliate of "Semey Ormany" SFNR
14.	**Mr. T. Kapanov**	"Arna" Begen settlement
15.	**Mr. M. Panin**	Pro-rector, Semipalatinsk Pedagogical university
16.	**Ms. Kulyash Tazabayeva**	Dean, Natural Science Faculty
17.	Ms. Janna Ryssakova	Specialist, the World Bank

18.	**Mr. Urazov**	Specialist of the IBRD Representative Office in the RK
19.	**Mr. Muratbekov**	Project Coordinator, Saty-Invest LLP
20.	**Mr. Nurymgereyev**	Environmental Assessment Expert
21.	Mr. Yurij Strilchuk.	Radiation Risk Assessment Expert
22.	**Mr. Mir Muddasir Govhar**	Regional Coordinator, Saty-Invest LLP