

General update on activity of the Barents Forest Sector Task Force (BFSTF) in 2011

Chair: Russia

The second meeting of the BFSTF under the Russian chairmanship was held on 24-26 of May, 2011 in Luleå (Sweden). The main objective of this meeting was to concretise areas of possible cooperation and working methods for the BFSTF in the form of an Action Plan for BFSTF. In order to stimulate the discussion on the Action Plan, the meeting also included presentations of ideas from participating countries as well as presentations and field visits providing an insight to forestry in Sweden, with focus on economical efficiency.

During the discussion it was concluded that it is important to define both the mandate as well as main themes of the BFSTF. After all presentations the chair presented a list of main 13 topics of actions for the Forest Sector Task Force as follows:

1. Development of sustainable forest management
2. Model forest network
3. Cross border scientific network
4. Student projects
5. Development of multiple use of forest, non wood forest products
6. Forest and climate change
7. Bioenergy
8. Seed production and forest genetics, reforestation
9. Economics of forest production and forestry
10. Education and training for business
11. Recruitment in forestry
12. Forest inventory and monitoring
13. Forest roads

In the second half of 2011 were agreed in working order the texts of Mandate and Action Plan of the Barents Forest Sector Task Force. At the next meeting of the BFSTF these documents will be accepted.

Plans 2012: Two meetings of the Barents Forest Sector Task Force have been planned to organize in March (presumably in Norway) and in September (in Arkhangelsk, Russia).