

## **On the developments of the forestry in the Russian Federation (federal level)**

In February 2021, the Government of the Russian Federation amended **the 2030 Strategy for the Development of Forest Sector**. This Strategy features economic, social and environmental issues. The key aims and activities set by the Strategy include:

- a) Increasing the efficiency of extinguishing forest fires by providing Russian regions with firefighting technology and equipment. We are planning to establish new centres of forest firefighting and increase the number of forest firefighters.
- b) Expanding forest restoration. This also implies further development of compensatory reforestation and more intensive forest management as well as upgrading and construction of new forest nurseries.
- c) Forest Science development, including by introduction of new technologies.
- d) Stimulating the domestic market of forest products and development of processing facilities.
- e) Digitalization of the forest sector which includes measures on introduction of federal unified state information system and upscaling of the system of timber traceability from forest plots to the state borders of the Russian Federation.
- f) Reducing illegal logging and forest law violations.

On the 4 November 2020, **the Presidential Decree № 666 ‘On GHG emissions reduction’** was signed. It sets the aim of lowering emissions to 70 percent compared to 1990 levels by 2030. We proceed from the understanding that to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the carbon sequestration capacity of forests and other ecosystems should be taken into account. This is the reason to pay more attention to the opportunities of **forest carbon projects. Forest-climate initiatives** that are based upon the principles of sustainable forest management are of great potential for development of carbon units and offsets, as well as decreasing carbon footprint. The Russian Federation stands ready for cooperation and exchange of experience in this area as well.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Russian Forest Code was amended to ensure **digitalization of forest sector**. The new federal law presupposes the development of federal state forest information system for comprehensive traceability of timber from felling sites to warehouses and further to processing or export. All the operations with timber are to be registered in the system, so the documents are to go fully digital. Setting-the-scene period scheduled from 2021 through 2023, starts in 2021 with pilot projects in several regions of the Russian Federation.