

# The Role of Society in Preventing Illegal Logging

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**Abstract.** In this paper, the problem of the influence of society on the prevention of the process of illegal logging is considered. Forests and forest plantations are one of the most important carbon stores on the planet, however, as a result of irrational logging on an industrial scale, even under the plausible pretext of releasing land for agriculture or infrastructure development, huge environmental damage is caused, since nature is deprived of important mechanisms not only of absorbing those carbon dioxide, which are emitted into the atmosphere as a result of various activities of mankind, but also their storage. In this regard, it is important to draw public attention to this problem and develop certain rules according to which these processes would have a proportional relationship.

## 1 Introduction

Over the past decades, the lack of barriers and the absence of effective regulatory mechanisms have increased the scale of illegal logging in Russia. At the same time, the Russian Federation (RF) is one of the largest timber-producing countries in the world, with about one third of the world's forests, and forestry is an important source of commodity and export profitability, and also plays an important role in biodiversity conservation and climate regulation. However, in recent decades, forestry in Russia has been facing a number of problems such as insufficient funding, inefficiency and weak regulation, as well as high dependence on exports, which negatively affects the state of affairs in forestry. This, in turn, causes concern not only among specialists (environmentalists, lawyers, biologists, etc.), but also among the wider public [1; 2].

## 2 Research methodology

Legal logging is a serious problem at the global level, which can lead to environmental degradation, biodiversity suppression and a deterioration in the quality of life of local residents. The United Nations and the legislation of the Russian Federation prohibit illegal logging and severely punish criminals with various sanctions. In accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, illegal logging is an administrative or criminal offense and may result in fines, administrative or criminal penalties. The UN is also

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coordinating international efforts to combat illegal logging and promote sustainable forest management [11; 12].

In addition, there are international protocols and treaties, such as the UN Convention on the Prevention of Illegal Forest Activities, which are designed to help prevent and control illegal logging at the international level. As part of these treaties and protocols, participating countries must ensure that laws and regulations are in place to limit illegal logging and that they are enforced. At the same time, international cooperation and information exchange between countries also plays an important role in the fight against illegal logging [10; eleven].

At the same time, the level of cooperation between countries in the field of combating illegal logging may vary. For example, some countries have stronger laws and institutions to combat illegal logging, and they may have a higher degree of cooperation with other countries in this area. Other countries, especially those with weaker laws and institutions, may have a lower level of cooperation and fight against illegal logging.

### **3 Results and Discussions**

The following can be noted as the main reasons for the lack of cooperation between states in the field of environmental safety:

- the predominance of national interests over international ones, when the assertion of one's own national interests in front of international obligations; difference in the political and economic system (differences in the economic and political system can cause obstacles to cooperation);
- technological differences between countries (differences in the level of technological development can cause difficulties in cooperation);
- mistrust and political disputes between states (political disputes and mistrust can hinder effective cooperation);
- differences in priority levels (different levels of environmental safety priorities between states can hinder cooperation).
- lack of funding (lack of funding can cause difficulties in the implementation of international projects on environmental safety);
- lack of information and communication (lack of information and ineffective communication between states can cause problems in cooperation).

At the same time, in our opinion, in order to effectively overcome barriers in cooperation in the field of environmental safety between different countries of the planet, it is necessary:

- consideration and respect for each other's interests (determination of common goals and interests will improve cooperation);
- Improving communication and cooperation (increasing the effectiveness of interaction and cooperation between countries will help eliminate misunderstandings and improve mutual understanding).
- mutual financial assistance in the field of environmental security (increasing the level of financing of international environmental security projects will improve cooperation).
- setting high standards supported by all leading countries of the world (setting high standards in the field of environmental safety will help improve cooperation).
- the conclusion of international agreements (the conclusion of international agreements will improve cooperation and compliance with environmental standards).

At the same time, it should be noted that at the present stage of development of human civilization, the main burden of ensuring the environmental safety of the planet falls on a few international organizations. International organizations such as the UN play an

important role in increasing the level of cooperation and coordination between countries in this area [10; 12].

There are the following activities related to forest protection:

1. Preventive measures consisting of interrelated forest planning and management processes that aim to prevent illegal logging and protect forest resources.

2. Preventive measures, including monitoring and assessment of the state of forests, control and verification of the activities of forestries and other forestry enterprises, which are aimed at detecting and preventing illegal logging.

3. Reactive measures aimed at investigating and prosecuting violators, as well as restoring and protecting damaged forest areas, with the elimination of the consequences of illegal logging and the suppression of further violations of the law.

4. Educational and information activities - education and raising awareness about the protection of the forest and its resources, both among society and among authorities, forestries and other forest enterprises, which can help improve understanding and support for forest protection activities [6; 9].

At the international level, cooperation between countries in the field of forest protection is carried out on the basis of various international agreements and programs, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Declaration on the Protection of Forests. These agreements and programs promote the joint work of countries to solve the problems of forest protection and improve the state of forest resources.

Forests have a significant impact on the conservation status of natural complexes. The forest resource of Russia occupies 70% of the country's territory with a total timber reserve of 76.3 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The forest cover of the Russian Federation exceeds the forest cover of countries such as Canada and Brazil. According to the current forest legislation of the Russian Federation, the forest fund is classified as federal property [2; 8].

At the same time, one of the key problems of forestry in Russia is inefficiency and weak legal regulation. Thus, the forest management system of the Russian Federation faces many problems, such as insufficient funding, uncertainty of rights and responsibilities, as well as a lack of coordination between state authorities and forestry. Another important issue is the high dependence of forestry on exports. Russia exports a large amount of wood pulp, but the processing of wood and the production of high value-added products from it is experiencing serious difficulties.

Finally, the forestry sector of the Russian Federation also faces the problem of excess timber production and insufficient protection of forests from felling and fires. This can lead to irreversible degradation of forests and reduce their ecological and economic value. Also, insufficient protection of forests can lead to deterioration of air quality, water quality and loss of biodiversity.

In this regard, measures are being taken at the government level to address the identified problems, including increasing funding for forestry, improving forest regulation and management, and developing the production of high value-added wood products. But in order to implement large-scale reforms and achieve long-term sustainable development of forestry, coordinated interaction of all state authorities and the public is necessary [3; 6; 8].

Thus, in order to implement large-scale reforms and achieve long-term sustainable development of forestry in Russia, the following steps must be taken:

1. Increased funding for forestry, reducing the country's dependence on timber exports and consequently increasing investment in its own forestry.

2. Improve the regulation and management of forests by creating a more efficient forest management system that will protect forests from overexploitation and insufficient protection from logging and fires.

3. Development of the production of high value-added wood products based on the development of the production of high value-added wood products such as wooden building materials, furniture, paper and others, which will reduce dependence on the export of wood pulp and increase the profitability of forestry.

4. Increasing investment in research and development in this area with the improvement and introduction of new technologies and methods of forestry.

5. Increasing awareness and education of the population (society) with appropriate educational and information campaigns on forestry issues among the general public.

In all this work, society plays an important role in solving the problems of forestry in Russia. Public opinion and pressure can help guide decisions and implement policies and practices that will ensure sustainable forestry development. Public education and awareness about the importance of forestry and its impact on the environment and economy can help build public support for forest protection measures and create more efficient and sustainable forest management systems [4; 7].

Public participation in the monitoring and control of forestry activities can also play an important role in enforcing laws and regulations in this area. Finally, society can play an important role in promoting sustainable forestry practices, for example by supporting and promoting forest certification systems and expertise in sustainable wood products. In addition, society can also contribute to the development of new industries and business models that will be based on the sustainable and proper use of forest resources. This may include innovative technologies and production methods that will make better use of forest resources, such as wood recycling. Public institutions also play an important role in preventing illegal logging. Public opinion and pressure can contribute to decision-making and the implementation of measures that will protect forests from illegal logging [2; 3; 4].

Society can also take an active part in programs and initiatives aimed at protecting forests and conserving biodiversity, such as the development of national parks and reserves, taking part in social initiatives that will help create a more responsible and sustainable forestry.

## 4 Conclusions

Thus, society and public institutions play one of the leading roles both in the prevention of illegal logging and in the development of effective mechanisms for the sustainable development of forestry. At the same time, it is important to develop an understanding among the population that illegal logging is a crime against all mankind. After all, a person must live in harmony with nature, and not harm it, realizing that nature is a living organism. At the same time, the active use by society of laws and legal mechanisms that protect forest diversity in cooperation with executive authorities should help prevent illegal logging in the long term.

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