

Towards collaborative forest governance in the Russian Far East

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Looking at the development of forest policy in Khabarovsk, the author has found that this policy has been greatly affected by policy changes and transfers of power in the Federal government, and that local government have not been sufficiently successful in developing policies of their own. From a global point of view, the importance participatory forest management has been pointed out. It is necessary for Russia to consider such an approach, toward solving problems of poverty and helping local residents to keep watch on forests by themselves. Additionally, forestry-related businesses that own timber rights engage in forestry management in Russia. In light of this, social pressure needs to be exerted on these businesses, so that appropriate forest management will be ensured. In this presentation, the author surveyed the residents of Khabarovsk by questionnaire to clarify their attitude regarding participatory forest management. The author also discusses participation by ethnic minority groups in forest management and the establishment of small-scale businesses by the residents. Regarding pressures on the forest products industry, the author reports on the reform of the government procurement system in Japan and how the reformed system has affected the forest products businesses in Khabarovsk. The revised *Forest Code of Russian Federation* loosens regulations on the forest products industry. A point at issue is whether social pressure on the industry can compensate for such regulatory loosening. The author believes that forest policies in Russia should be developed and implemented in cooperation with local residents and the forest products industry. This report discusses the possibility of establishing collaborative forest governance in the Russian Far East. Sustainable forest management in Russia will also entail international cooperation.